

士 郎 正 宗

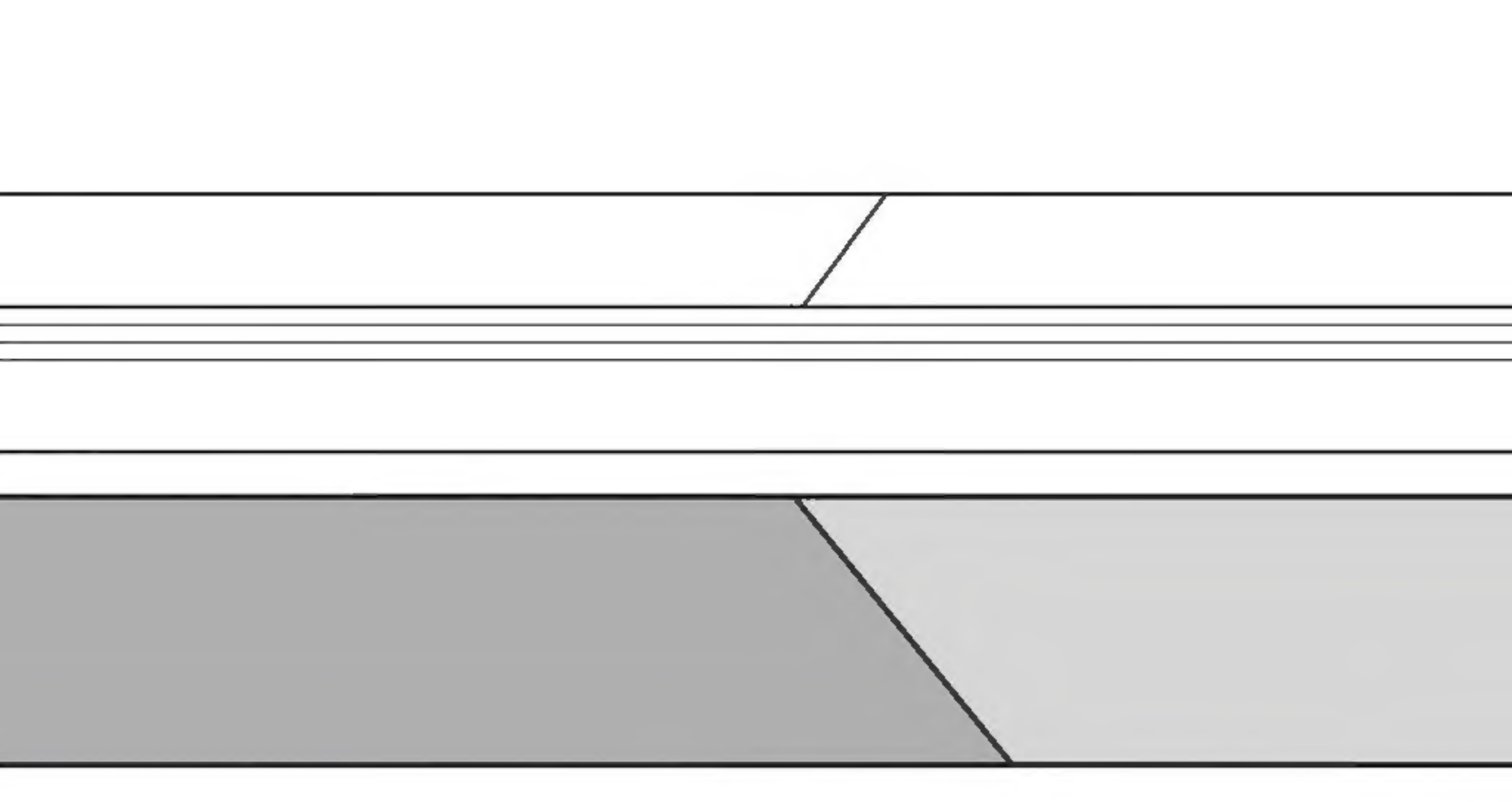
THE SCALES OF PROMETHEUS

APPLESEED™

S H I R O W M A S A M U N E



APPLESEED™



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APPLESEED™ BOOK THREE: THE SCALES OF PROMETHEUS

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APPLESEED™

story and art by **S H I R O W M A S A M U N E**

translation by **DANA LEWIS + TOREN SMITH**
[with **DUANE JOHNSON**]

lettering by **TOM ORZECOWSKI**



006



[15] POINT MAN

054



[16] LIFE POINT

093



[17] LIVE DRIVE

106



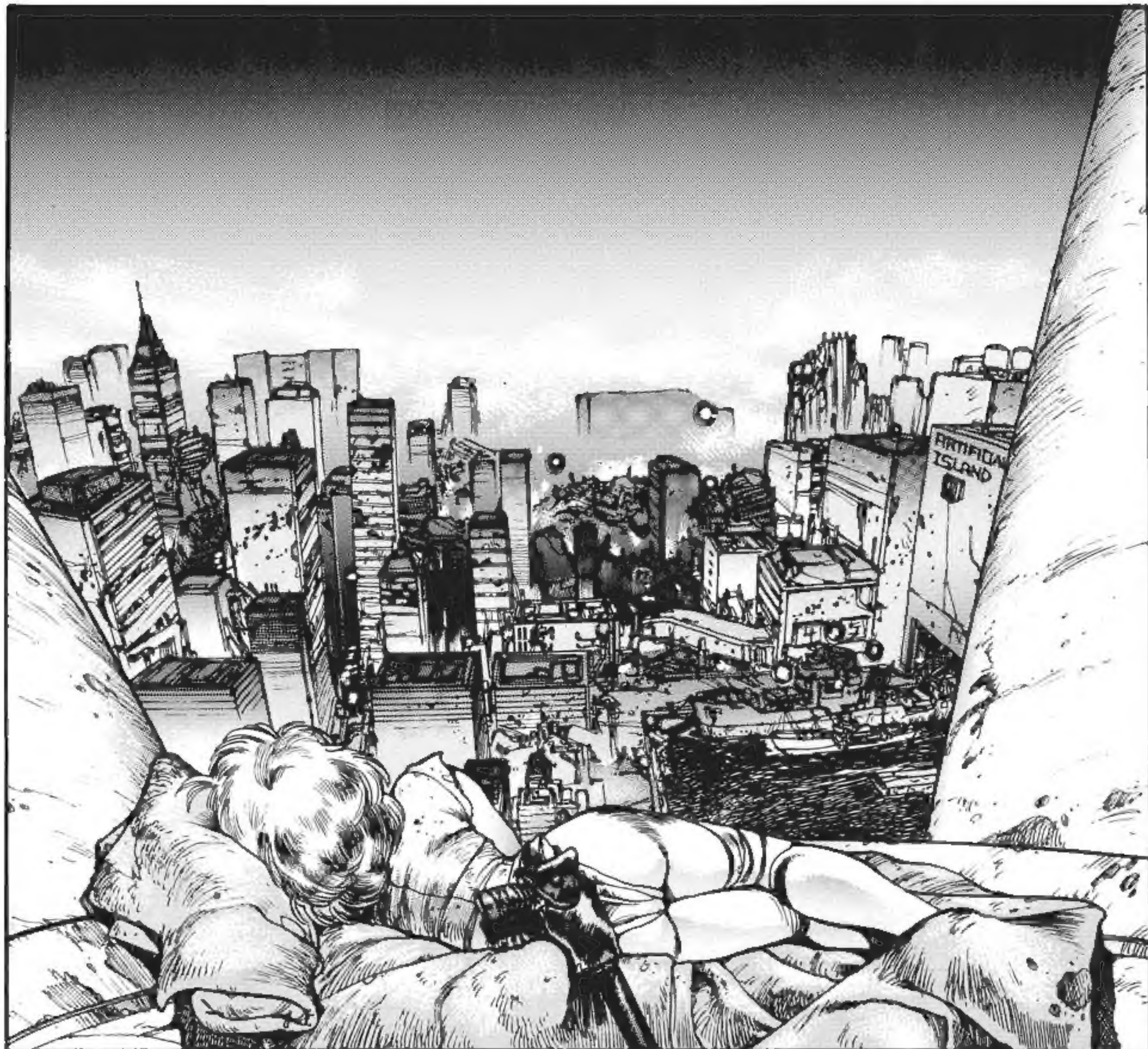
[18] DEAD OR ALIVE

159



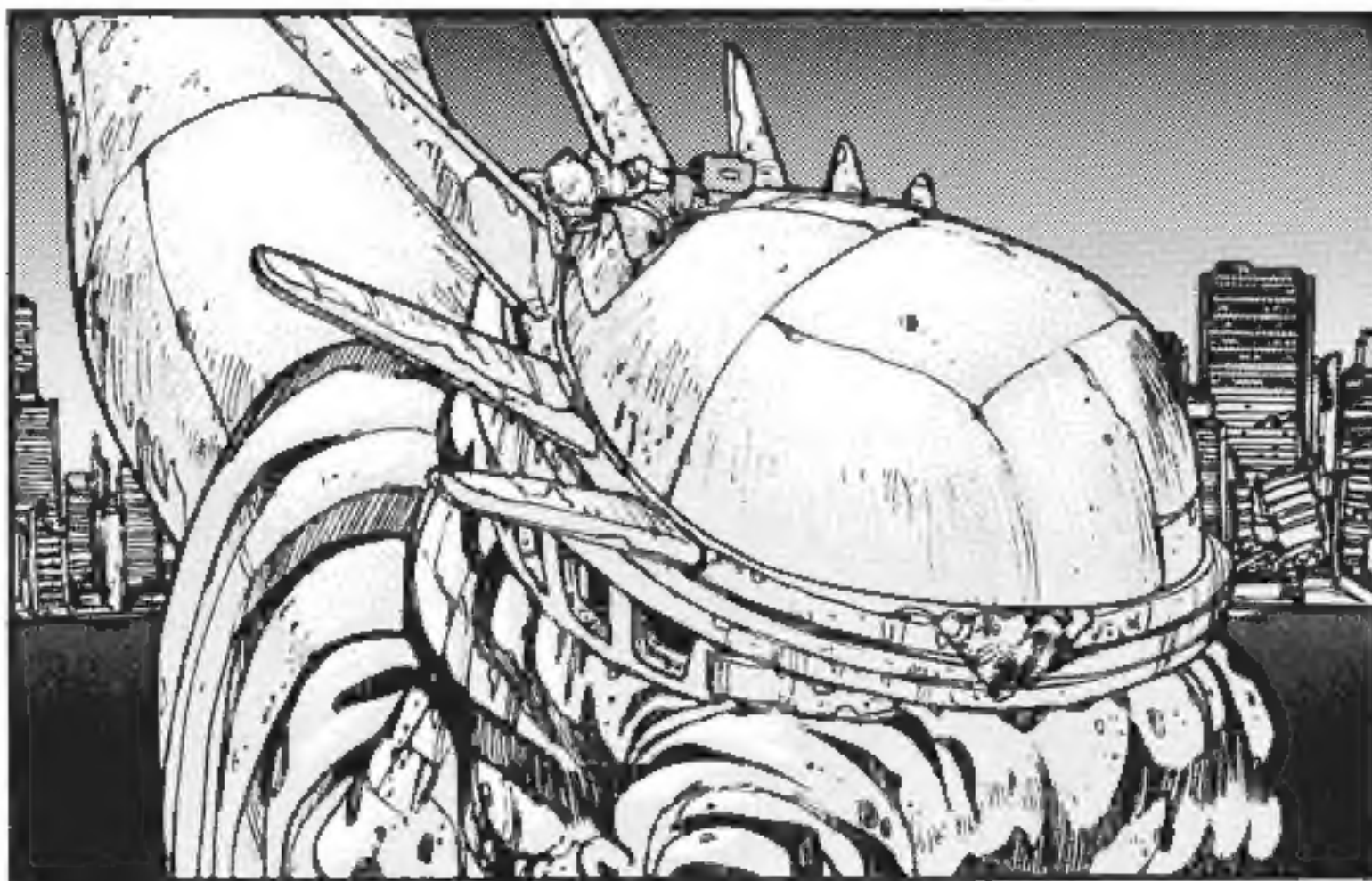
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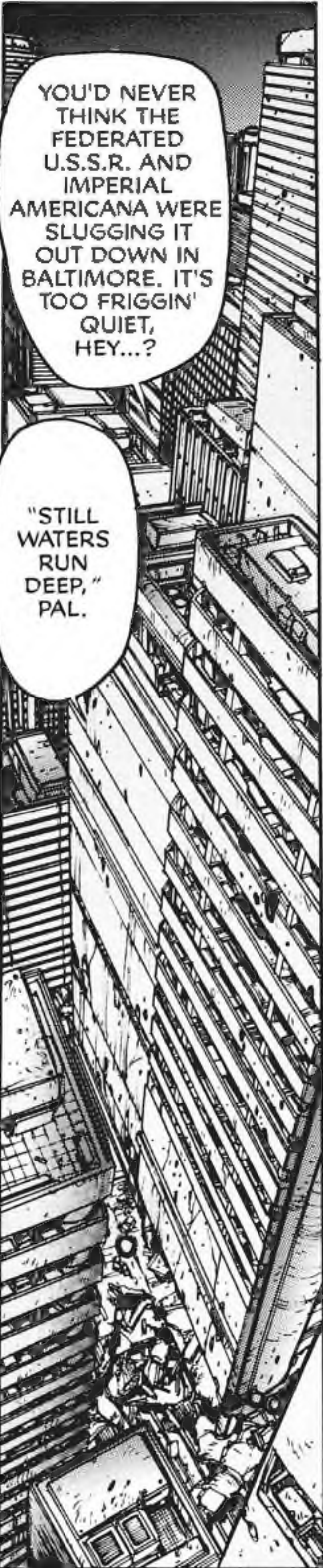
CONTENTS



士郎正宗

SHIROW MASAMUNE





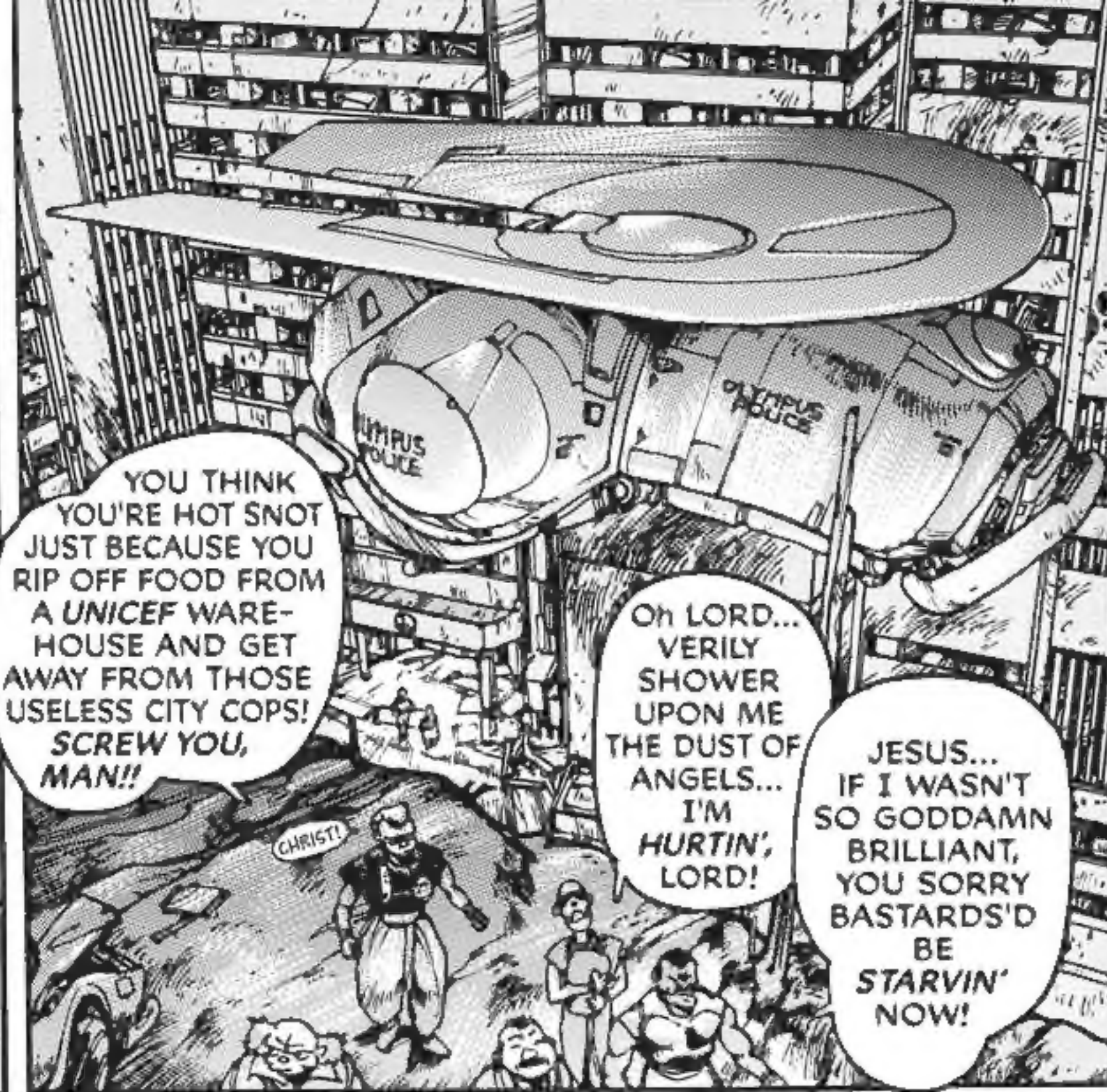
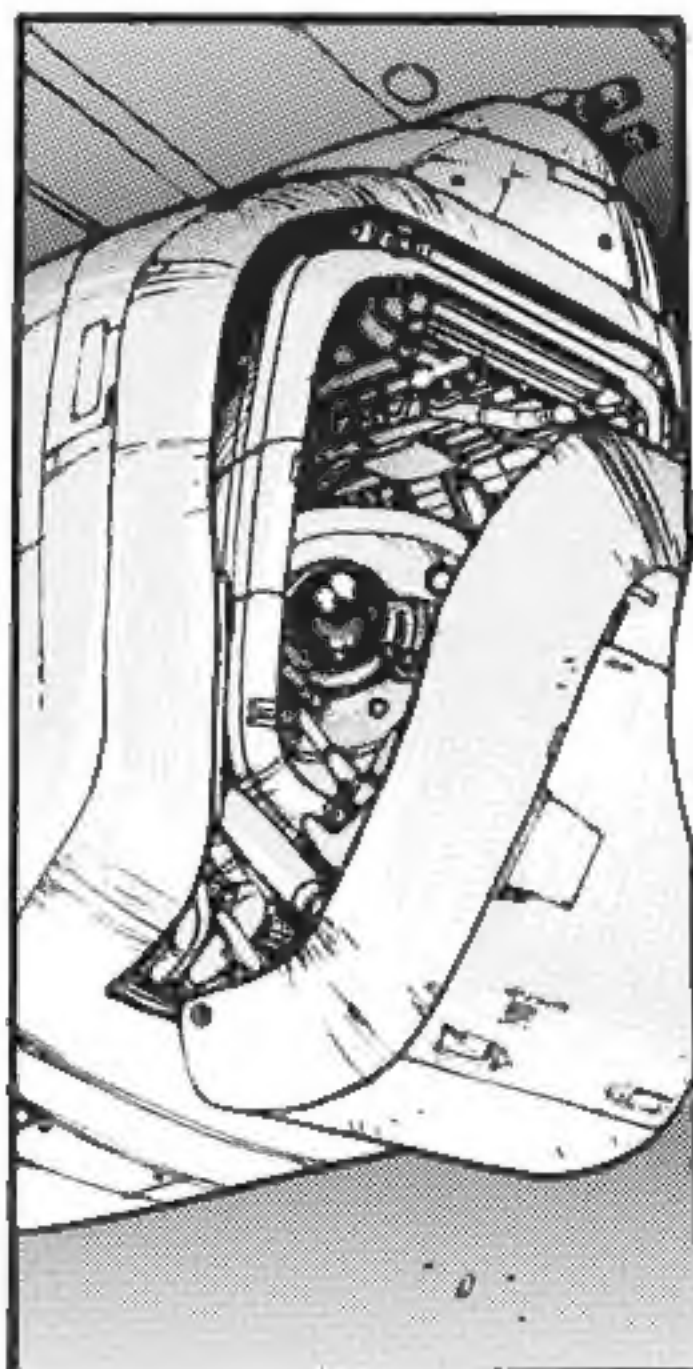
YOU'D NEVER
THINK THE
FEDERATED
U.S.S.R. AND
IMPERIAL
AMERICANA WERE
SLUGGING IT
OUT DOWN IN
BALTIMORE. IT'S
TOO FRIGGIN'
QUIET,
HEY...?

"STILL
WATERS
RUN
DEEP,"
PAL.



SO THIS
IS THE
BIG
APPLE...





YOU THINK
YOU'RE HOT SNOT
JUST BECAUSE YOU
RIP OFF FOOD FROM
A UNICEF WARE-
HOUSE AND GET
AWAY FROM THOSE
USELESS CITY COPS!
SCREW YOU,
MAN!!

CHRIST!

Oh LORD...
VERILY
SHOWER
UPON ME
THE DUST OF
ANGELS...
I'M
HURTIN',
LORD!

JESUS...
IF I WASN'T
SO GODDAMN
BRILLIANT,
YOU SORRY
BASTARDS'D
BE
STARVIN'
NOW!



Z
M
M
M
M!



WH...
WHA'
THE
HELL?!

HUH?

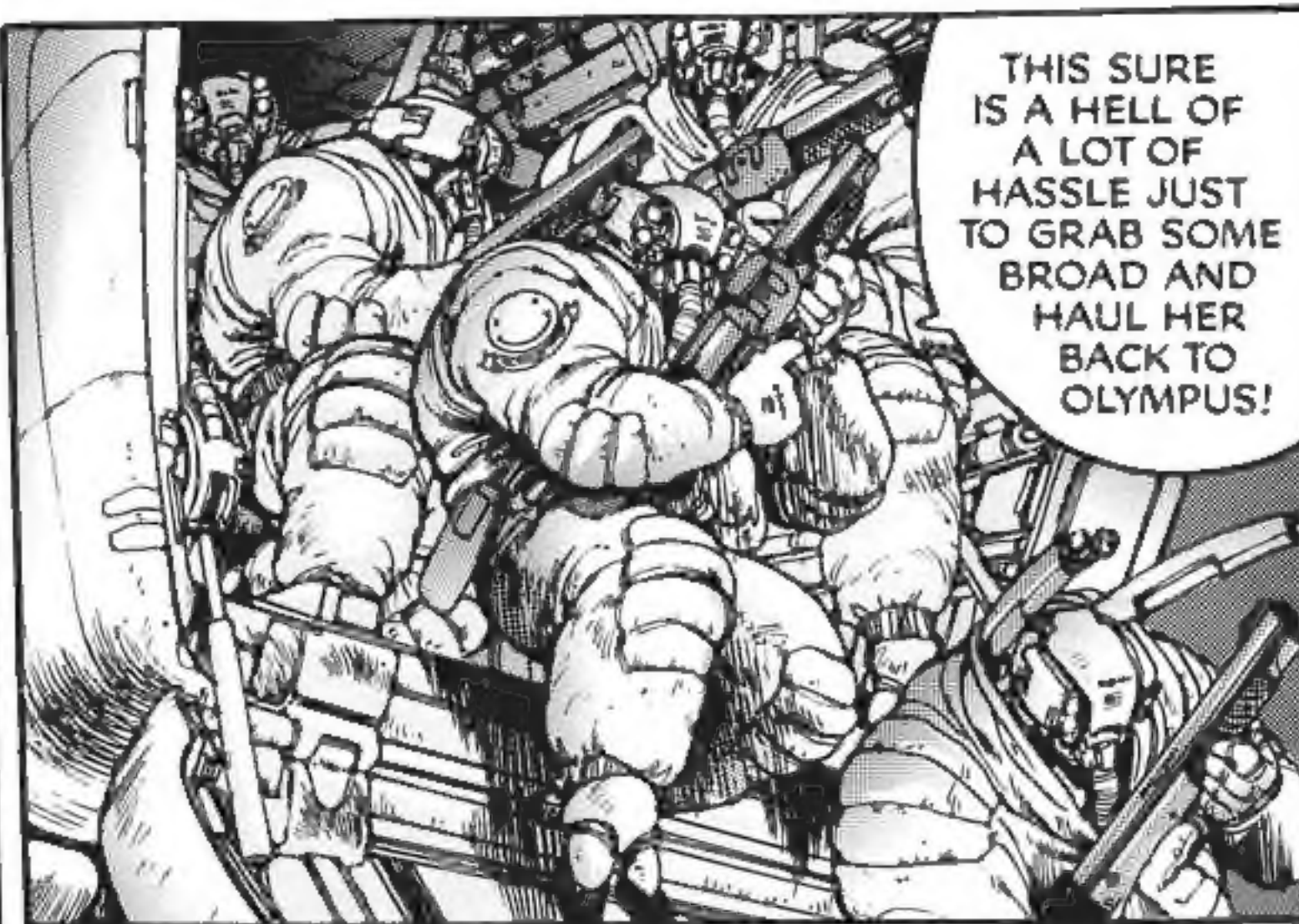
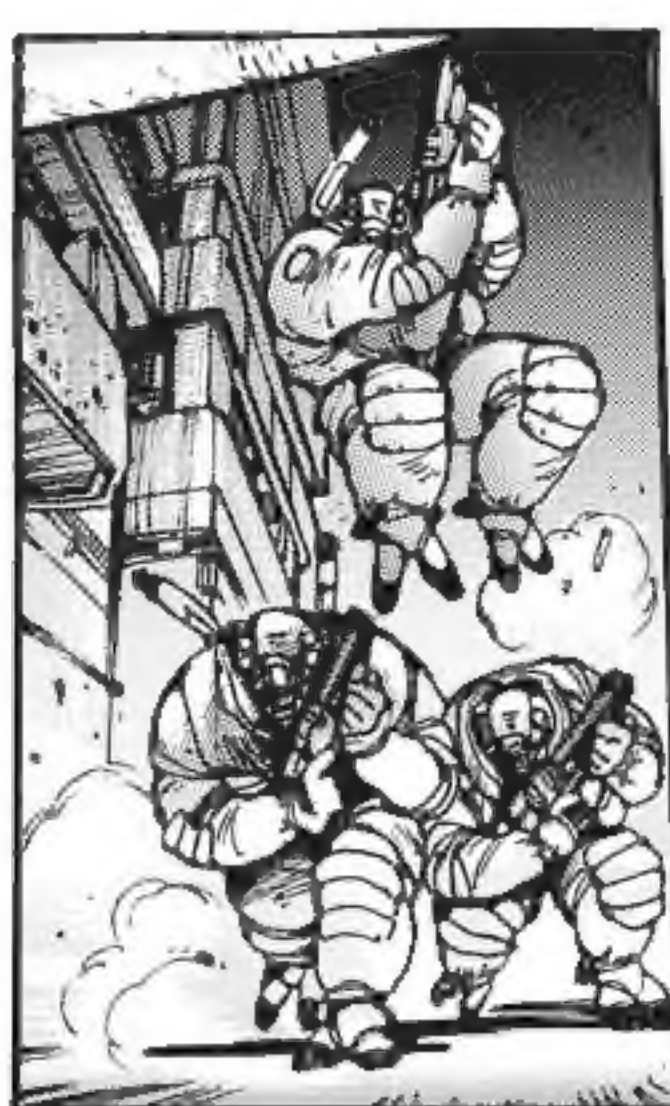
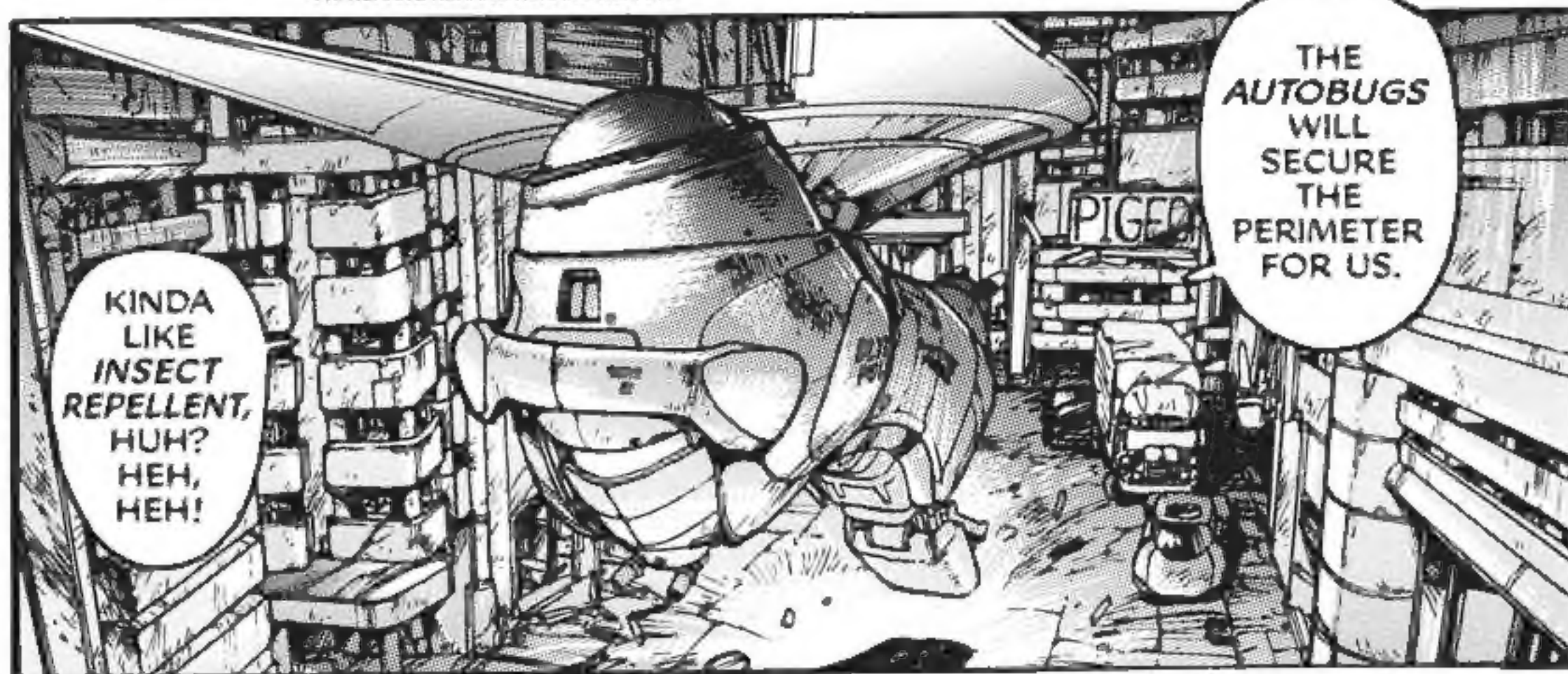
BYU
BYU
VUUN!

OLYMPUS POLICE

DO NOT
INTERFERE
WITH
POLICE
BUSINESS



*FX: KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG





--DIE
PLAYIN'
BACKUP
FOR
THOSE
FREAKED-
OUT
ROOKIES?

YOU
GOTTA BE
KIDDIN'--

SO WHAT
DO YOU
THINK--
SHOULD WE
GO ALONG
WITH THEM
OUR-
SELVES?



YEAH...
HMM.
ELEGANT
LITTLE
CRITTER,
AIN'T
SHE?

WELL,
I JUST
HOPE
SHE'S
SLEEPIN'
OFF
HER
LAST
DINNER
OUT.



WE COULD'VE USED
THOSE SCENT AND
THERMAL READINGS
WE GOT OFF HER
DURING HER BEAUTY
SLEEP UP THERE ON
OL' LADY LIBERTY.
MAN, WHAT A TASTY
LITTLE BOOTY
SHE'S GOT!

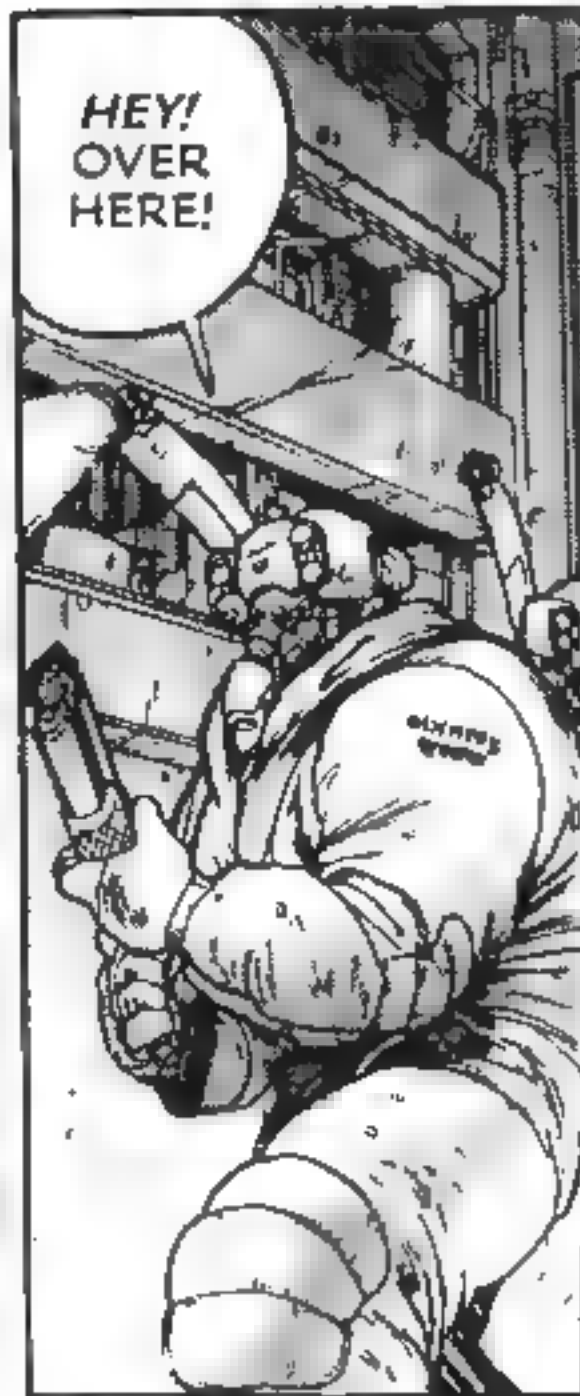
SURE
WOULD'VE
BEEN EASIER
TRACKING HER
IF THE DOGS
HADN'T
SPOOKED.
SOMETHIN'
FUNNY
GOIN' ON
THERE, YOU
THINK?

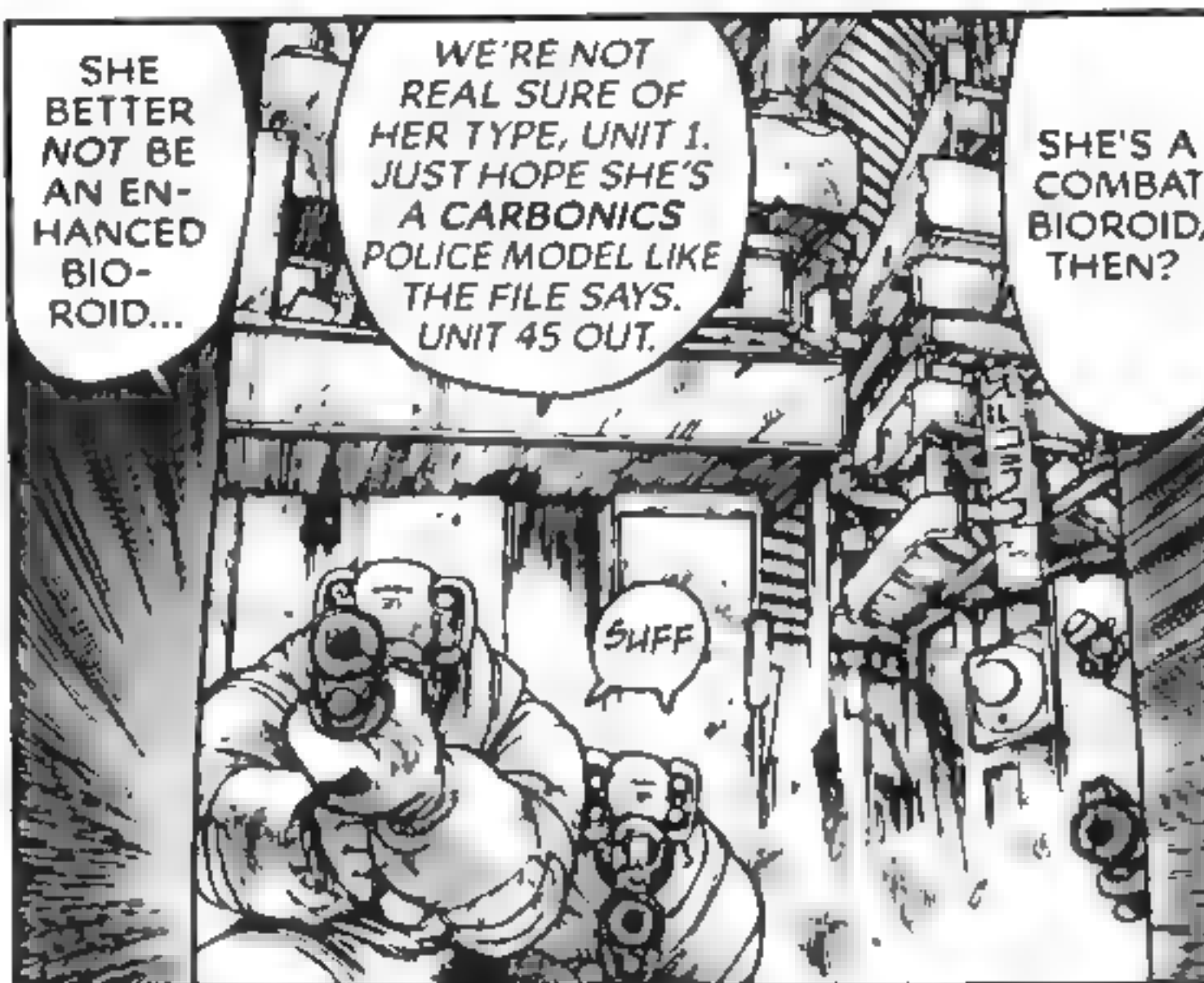
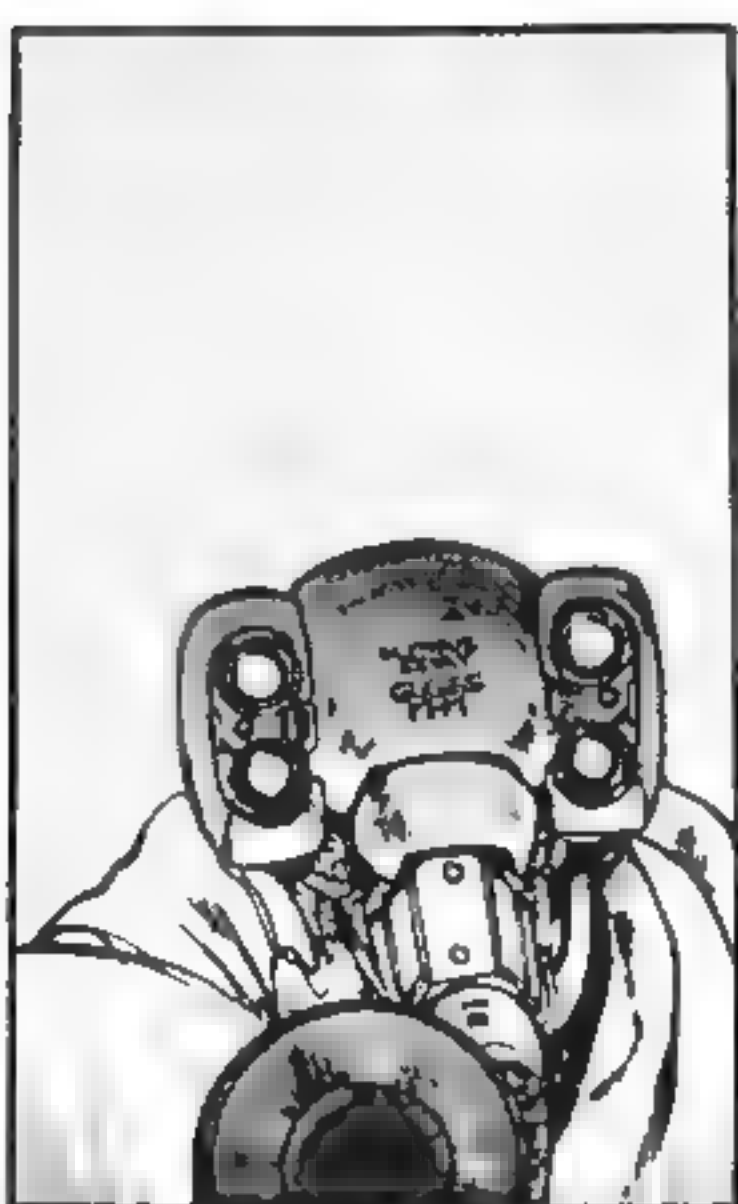
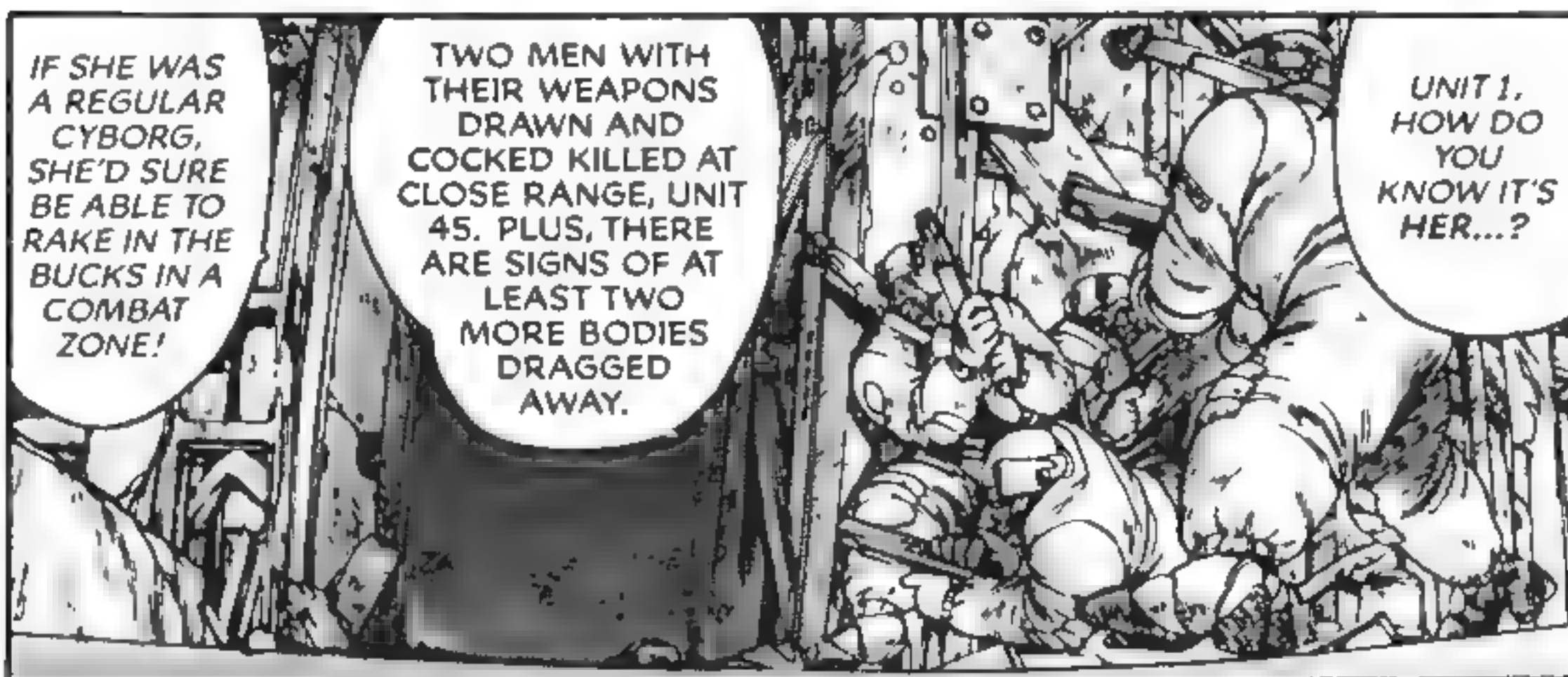
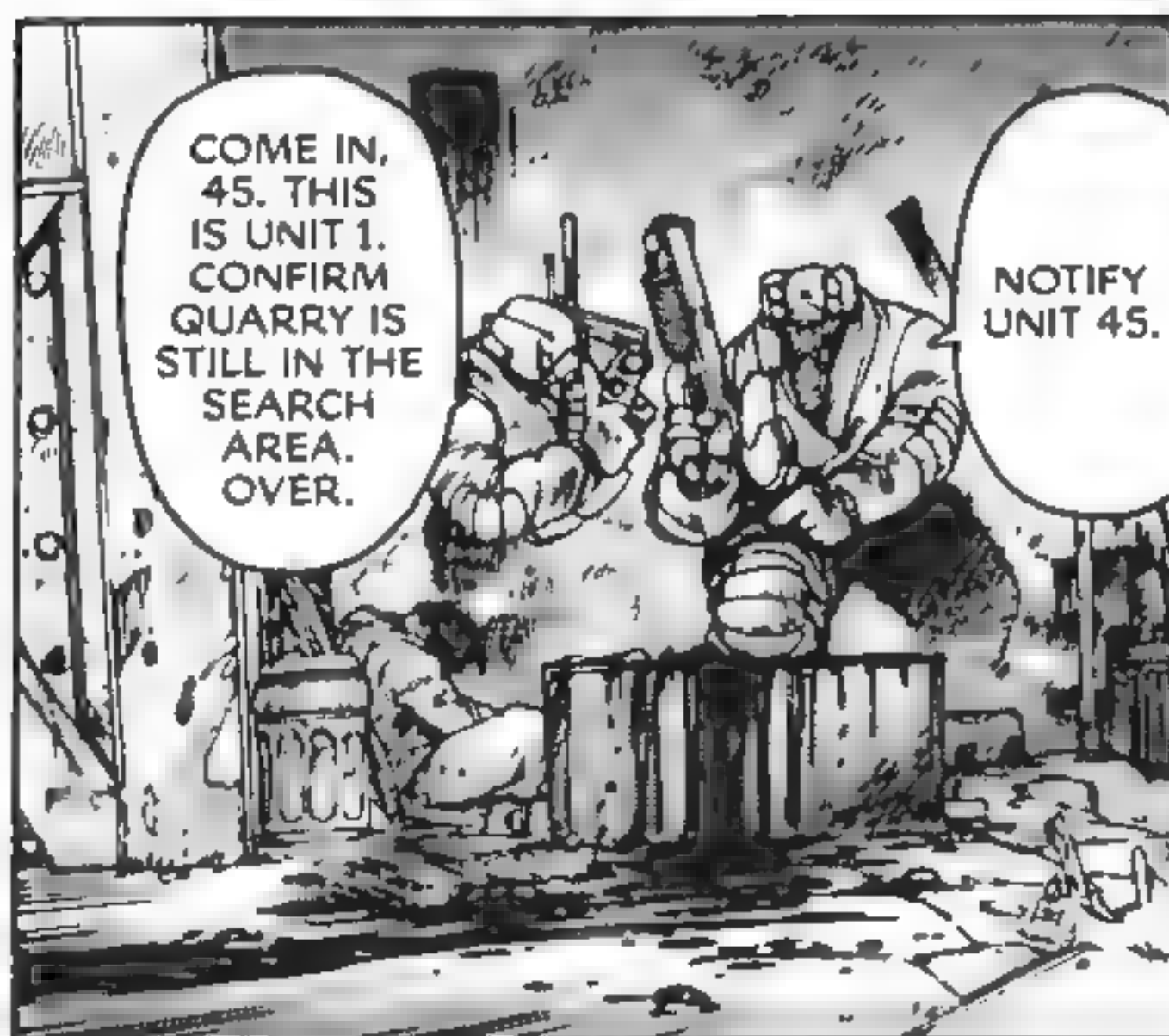


HEY!
OVER
HERE!



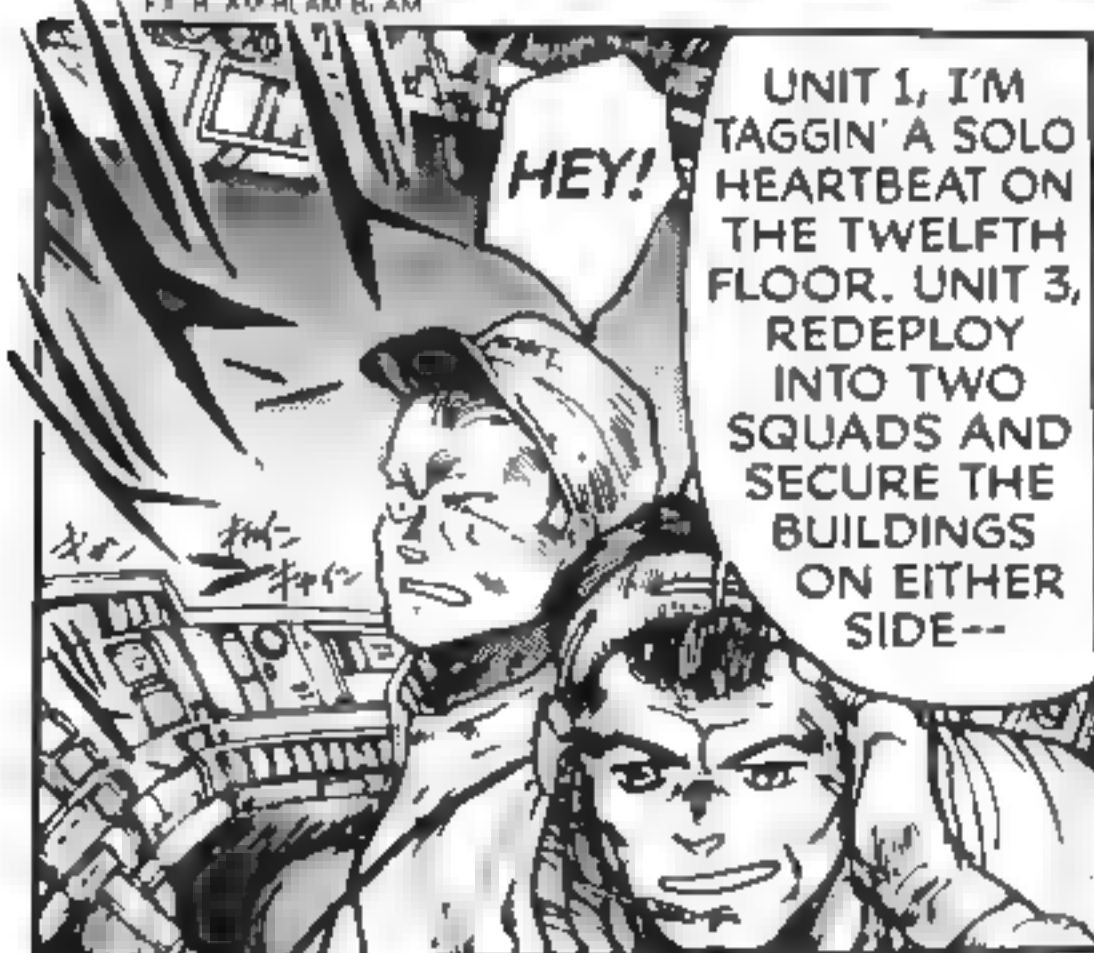
HUH...
HARSH
REALM!







FX H AMPLAM B AM



HEY!

UNIT 1, I'M
TAGGIN' A SOLO
HEARTBEAT ON
THE TWELFTH
FLOOR. UNIT 3,
REDEPLOY
INTO TWO
SQUADS AND
SECURE THE
BUILDINGS
ON EITHER
SIDE--

FX YIPE YIPE YIPE

FX YIPE YIPE YIPE YIPE

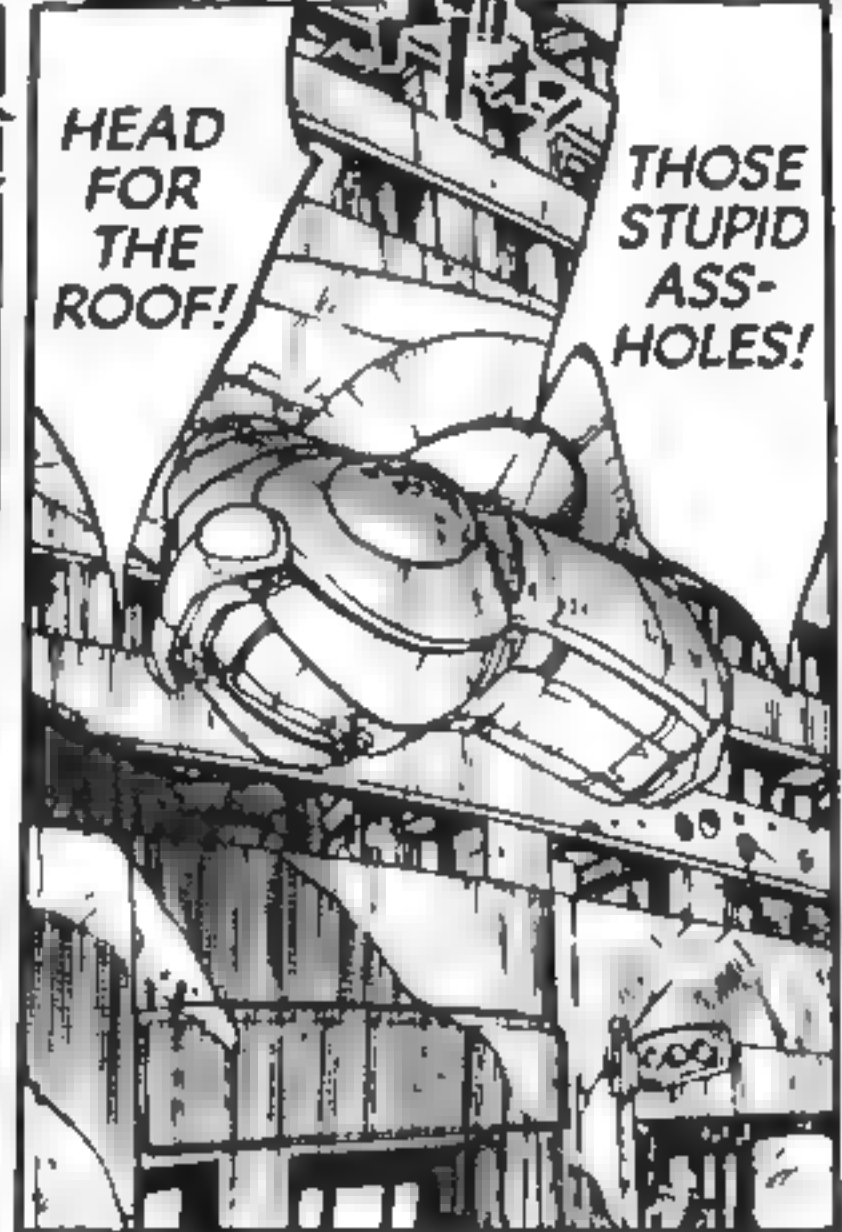
FX R AL B AL

FX VNN



YOU
LOUSY
GREEN-
HORN!
ALL RIGHT,
WE'RE
GOIN' IN!
YOU
COVER
THE EXIT,
JERK!

OH,
MAN...



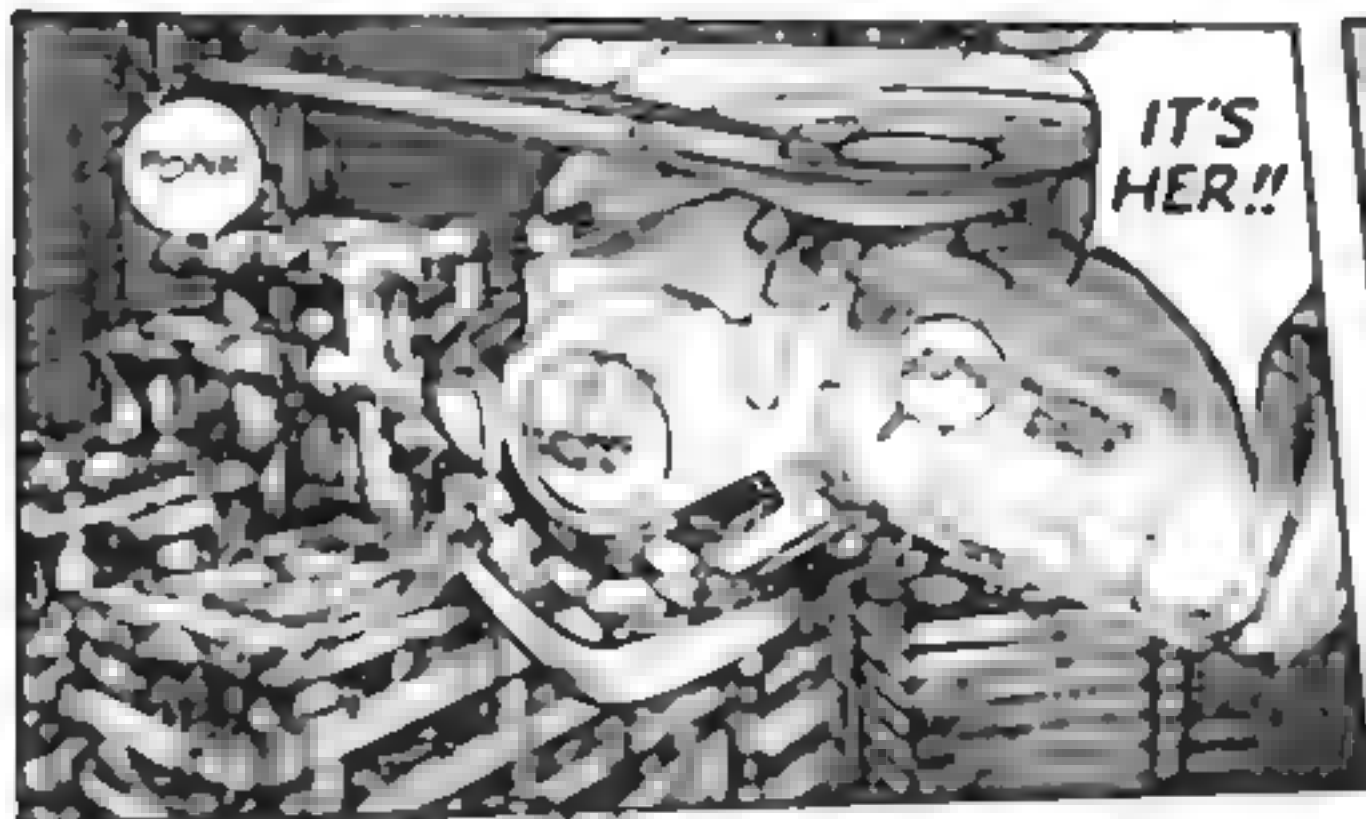
HEAD
FOR
THE
ROOF!

THOSE
STUPID
ASS-
HOLES!



OH, FOR
CHRIST'S
SAKE
HEY!
YOU TWO
STAY
HERE
WITH
HIM!

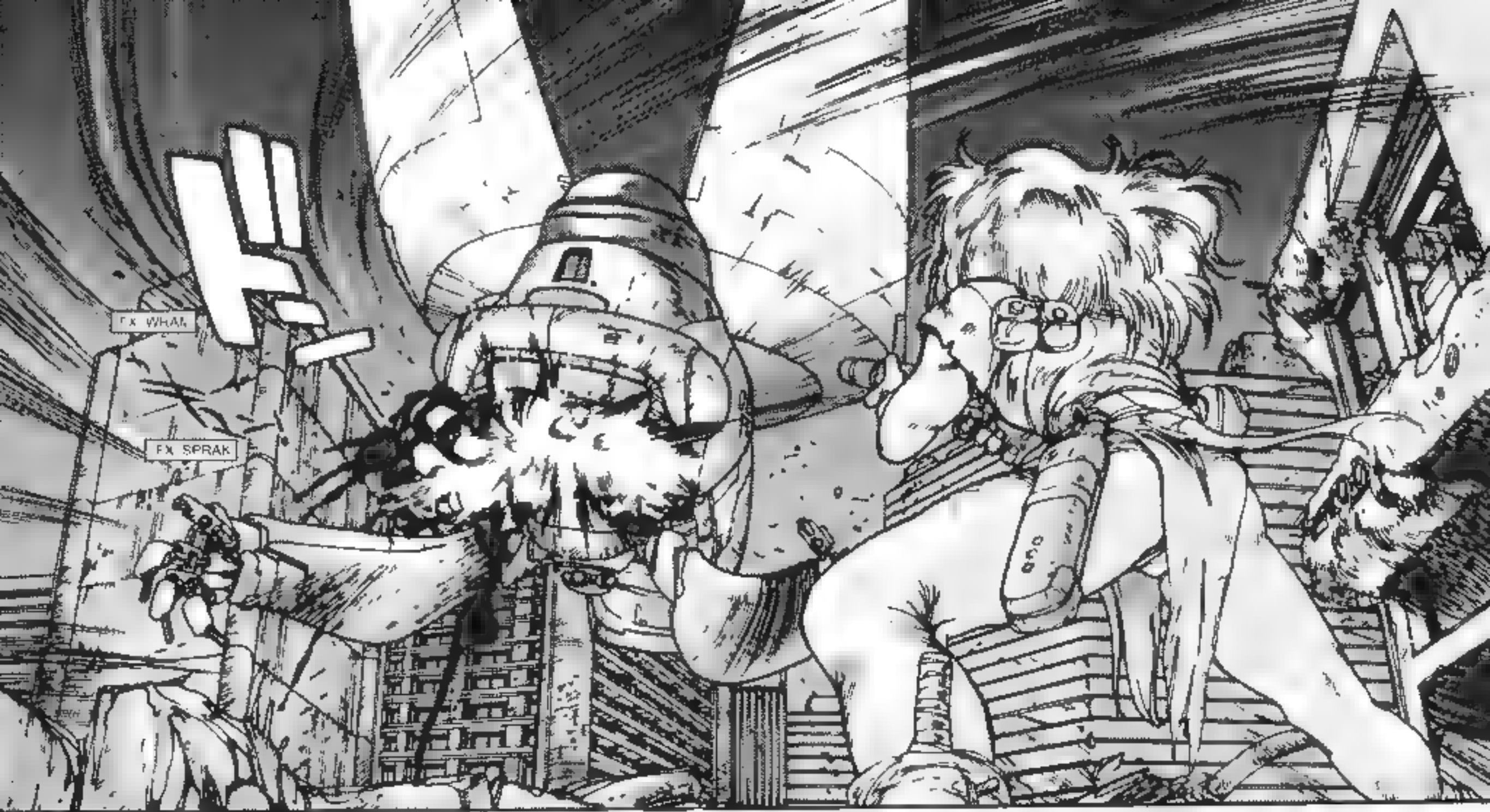
HRRGK
UCK



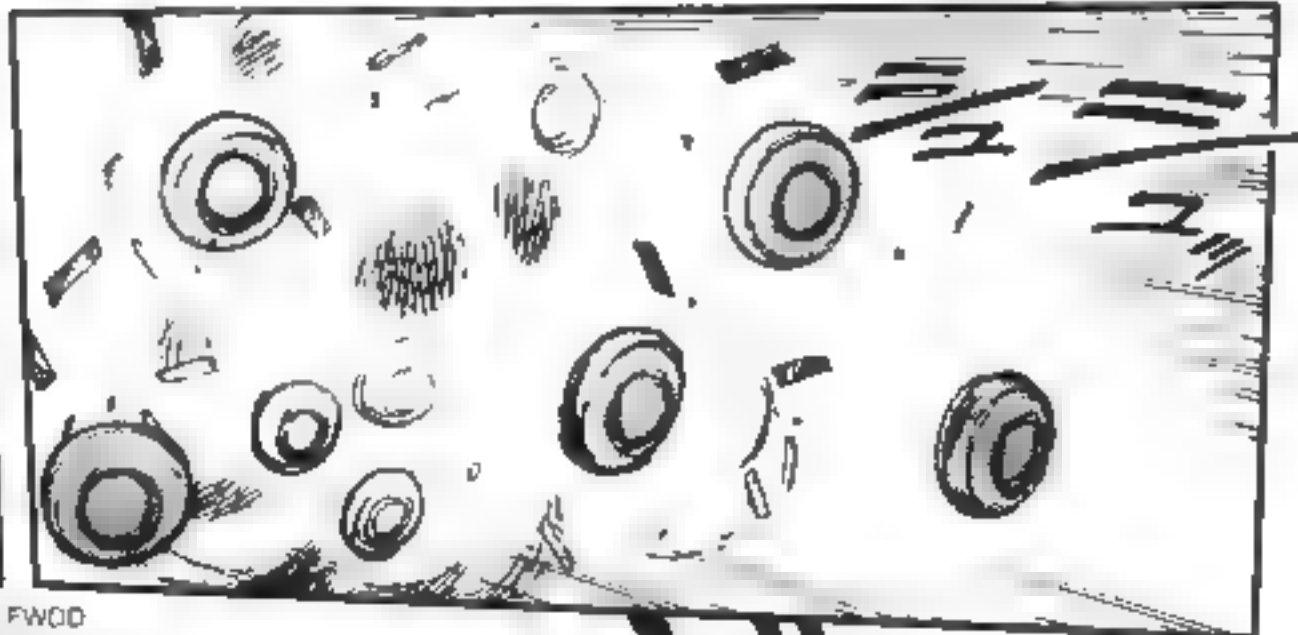
PONK

IT'S
HER!!

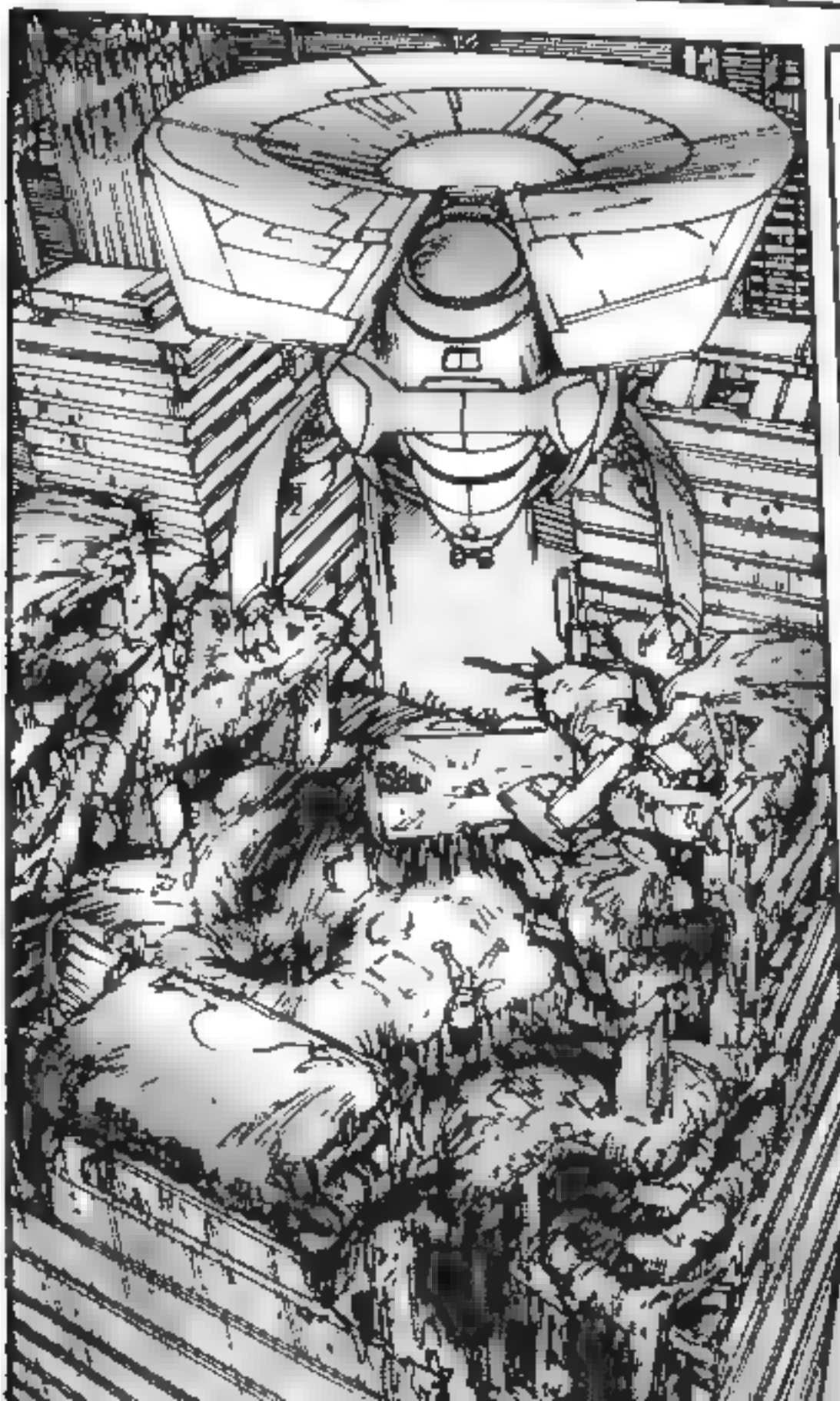




FX BOMP

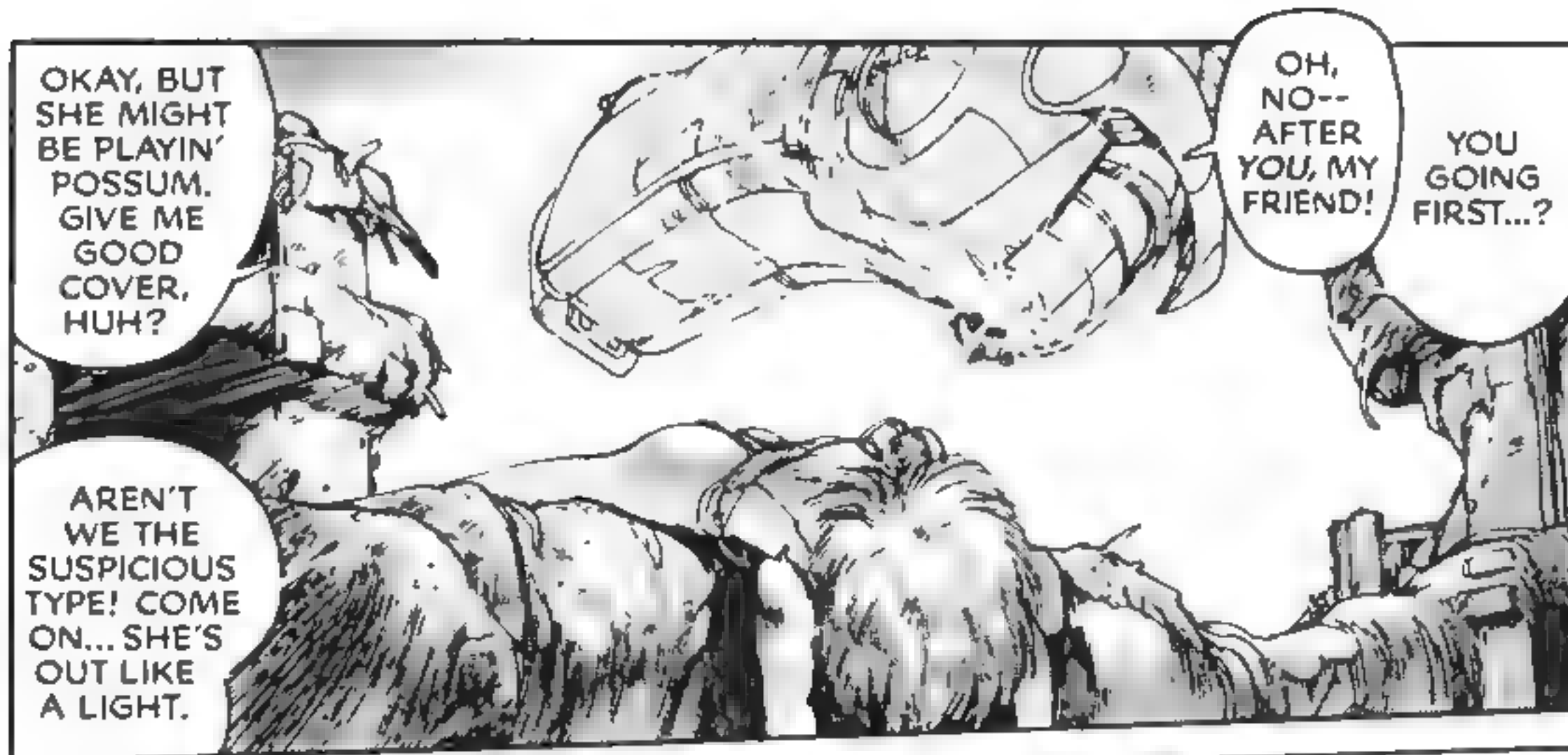


FX FWOD



FX WHOK





OKAY, BUT SHE MIGHT BE PLAYIN' POSSUM. GIVE ME GOOD COVER, HUH?

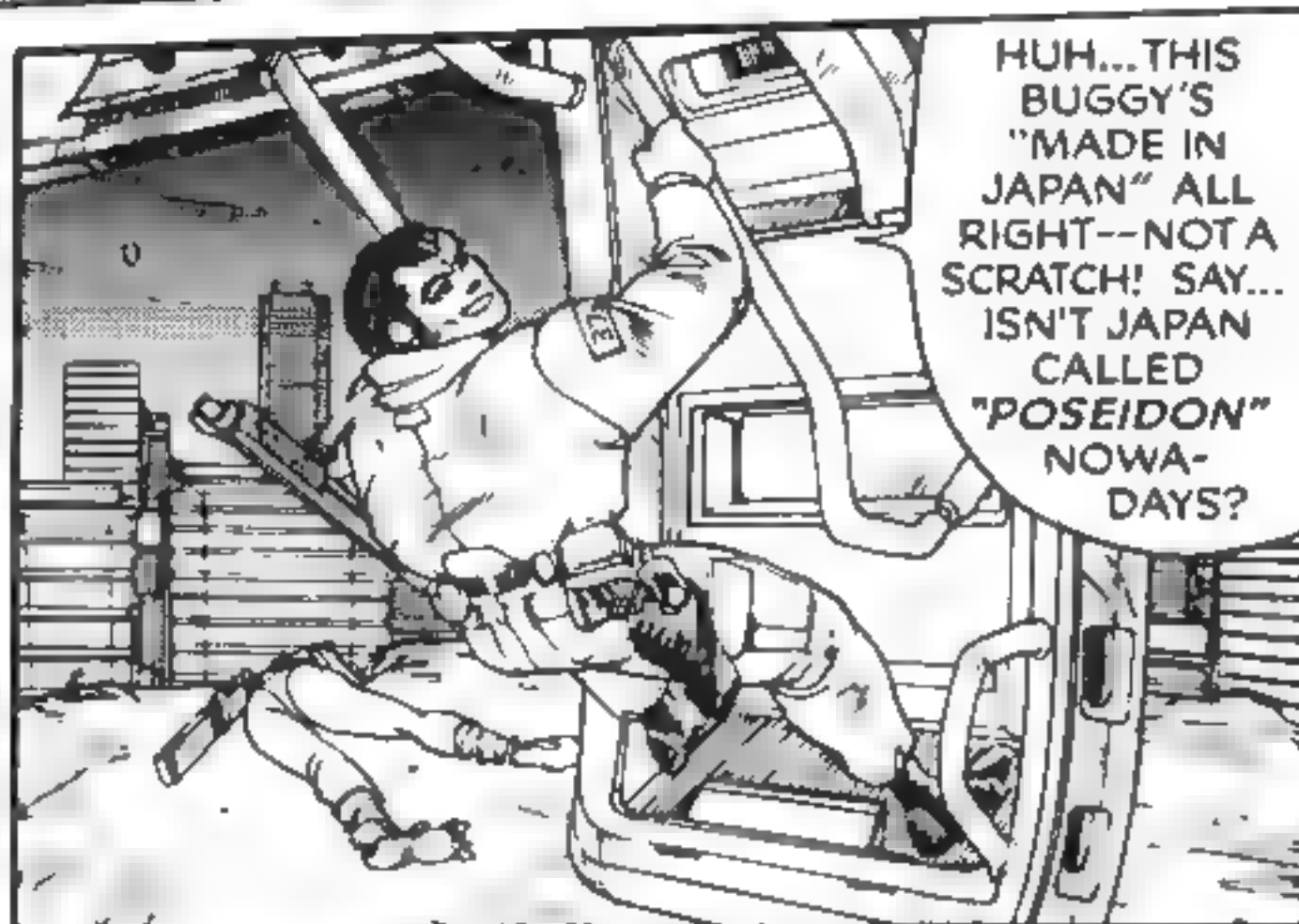
OH, NO-- AFTER YOU, MY FRIEND!

YOU GOING FIRST...?

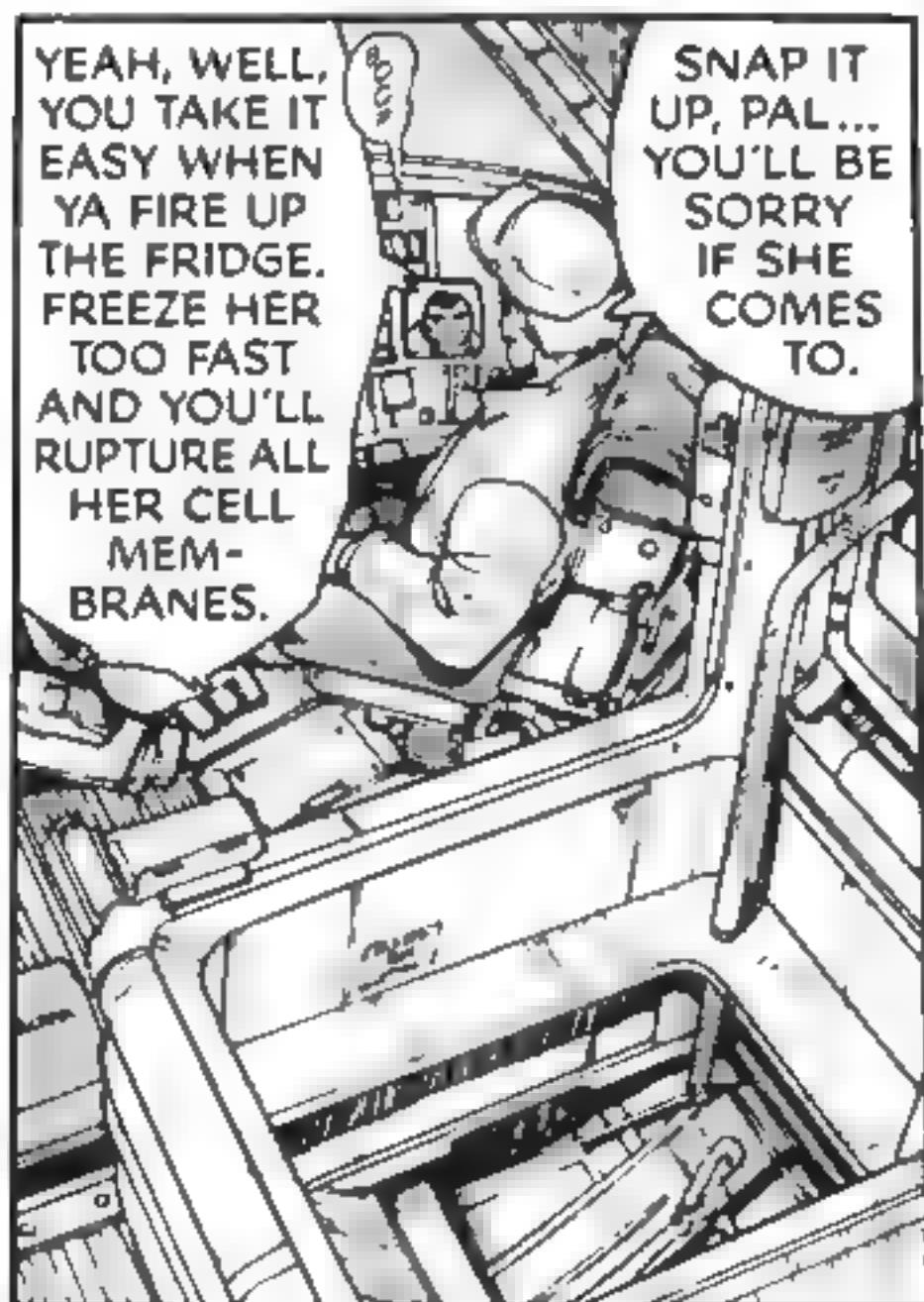
AREN'T WE THE SUSPICIOUS TYPE! COME ON... SHE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT.



YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT... ANYWAY, GOT TO BE GOOD ARMOR, OR WE'D BE WELL-DONE AND STILL SIZZLING.



HUH... THIS BUGGY'S "MADE IN JAPAN" ALL RIGHT-- NOT A SCRATCH! SAY... ISN'T JAPAN CALLED "POSEIDON" NOWA-DAYS?



YEAH, WELL, YOU TAKE IT EASY WHEN YA FIRE UP THE FRIDGE. FREEZE HER TOO FAST AND YOU'LL RUPTURE ALL HER CELL MEMBRANES.

SNAP IT UP, PAL... YOU'LL BE SORRY IF SHE COMES TO.



HEY, HEY, CHECK IT OUT! THIS BABY MAY BE AN ORIGINAL!



WELL, NOW, LITTLE HONEY, YOU READY FOR ANOTHER SNOOZE IN CRYOGENIC HIBERNATION?

PSST



JEEZ, YOU
NEED A
VACATION,
MAN. BET IT
WOULDN'T BE
SO FUNNY IF
YOU SAW
HER DOING
IT.

HEH, HEH...
A BIOROID
LIVIN' ON
HUMAN MEAT.
KINDA MAKES
SENSE WHEN
YA THINK
ABOUT IT,
HUH?

*FX BEEP



YEAH, YEAH...
YOU SAWED OFF HIS
ARMS AND LEGS,
HMM? THEN COOKED
HIM UP BIT
BY BIT.

BEEP

SAY, I EVER
TELL YA HOW
WE ATE ONE A'
THE GUYS IN
OUR UNIT
DURIN' THAT
BREW-UP IN
BRAZIL?

I TELL YA, THERE
WAS BLOOD
EVERYWHERE

4!



YOU
SURE ARE
HEAVY FOR
SUCH A LITTLE
THING!



AND
HERE I
THOUGHT
YOU BRITS
WERE
DOG
LOVERS...
HAH!

T-TERRIBLY
SORRY,
SIR!

GUN PLATFORM
4 WILL BE
COVERIN' US
ANYWAY. AFTER
ALL, WE GOT A
REAL V.I.P. ON
BOARD--HEY
YOU! YOU THE
MORON WITH
THE TRIGGER
FINGER?!



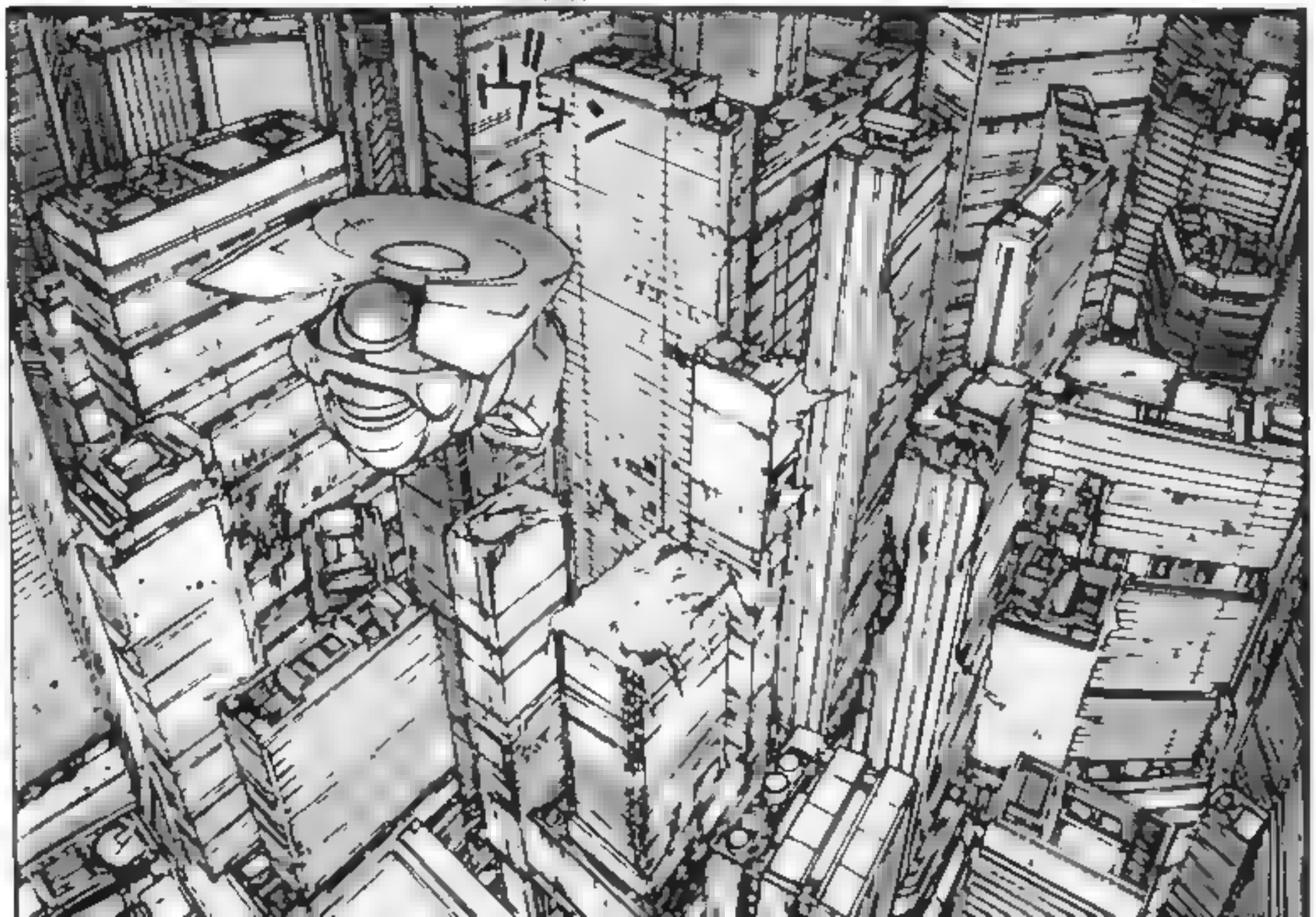
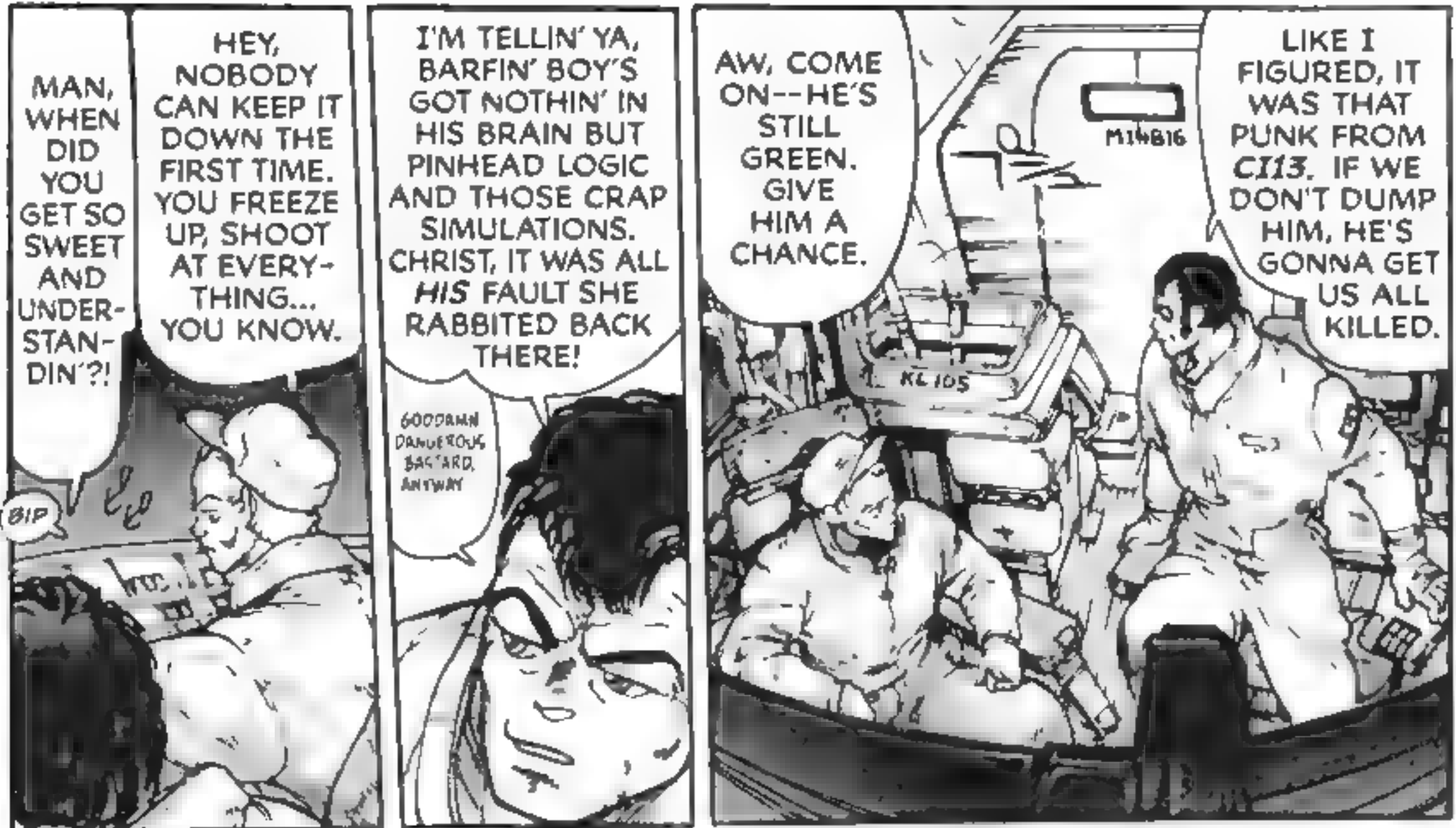
A KGB/FBI
JOINT OP?
THIS I'VE
GOTTA SEE.
BET IT
WON'T
SCARE OFF
THE
IMPERIAL
AMERICANA
CIA,
THOUGH.

ALL RIGHT!
THE
FEDERATED
U.S.S.R. SAYS
THEY'LL GIVE
US AN
ESCORT TO
THE 70th
PARALLEL.

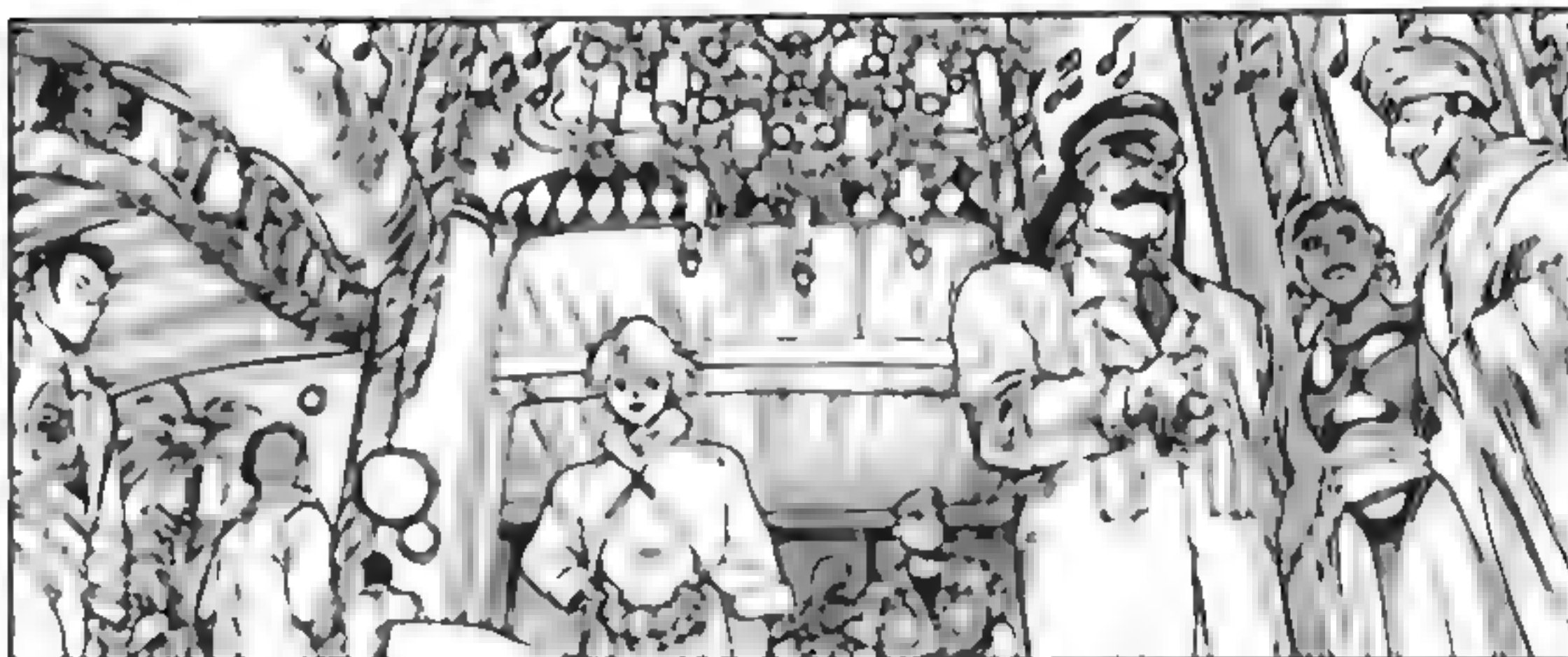


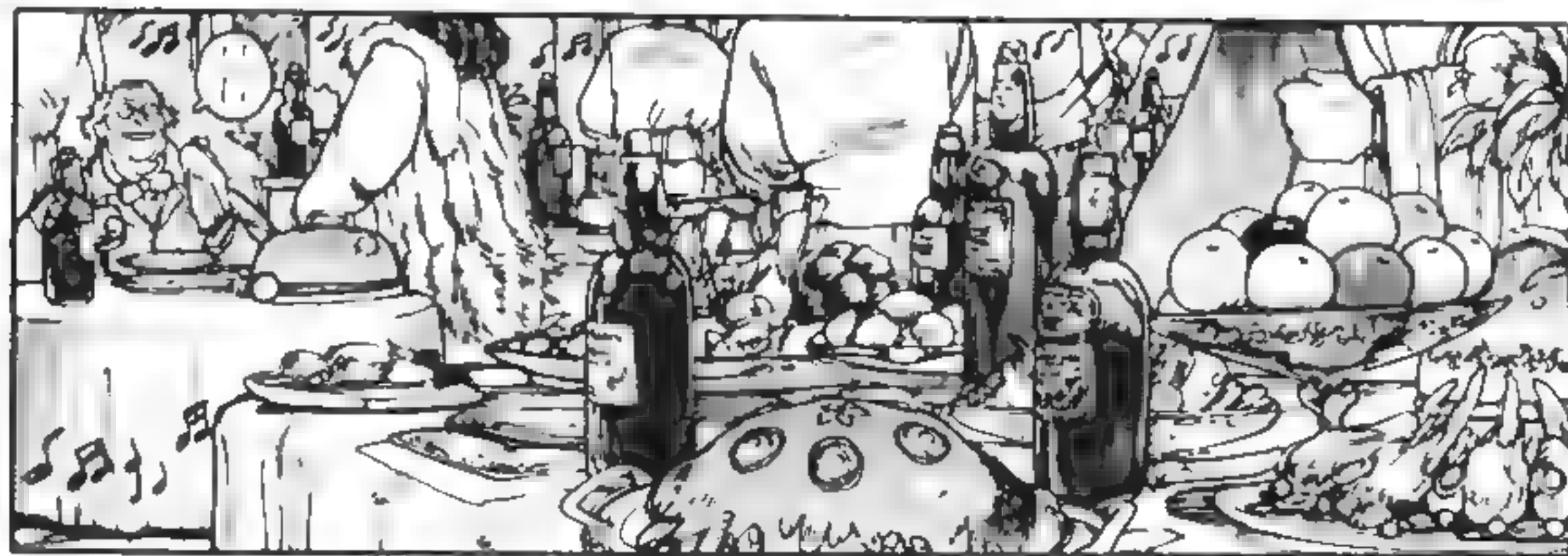
WE'LL BE
DEBRIEFIN'
YOU GUYS
BACK IN
OLYMPUS.

OKAY...WE
PICK UP
THE
AUTOBUGS,
THEN HEAD
FOR THE
PORT.









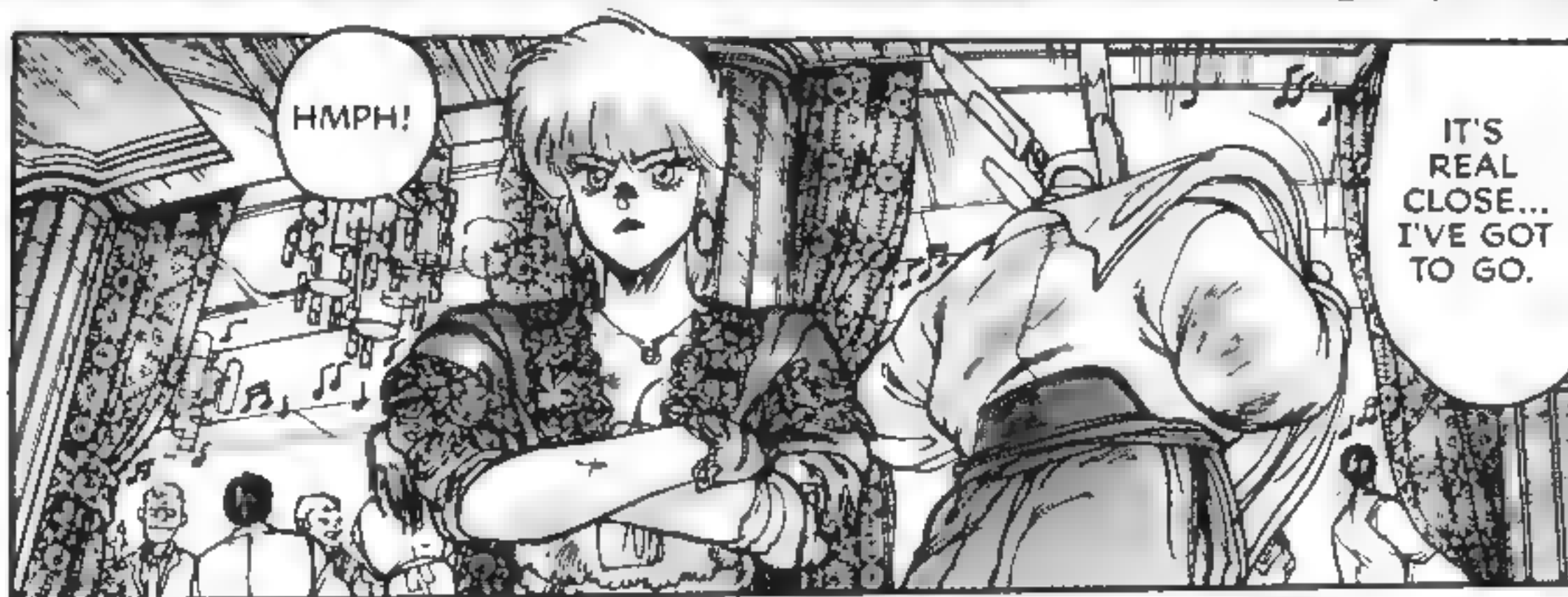




IT'S A MAYDAY...



THERE HE GOES AGAIN, HEARING VOICES....!



HMPH!

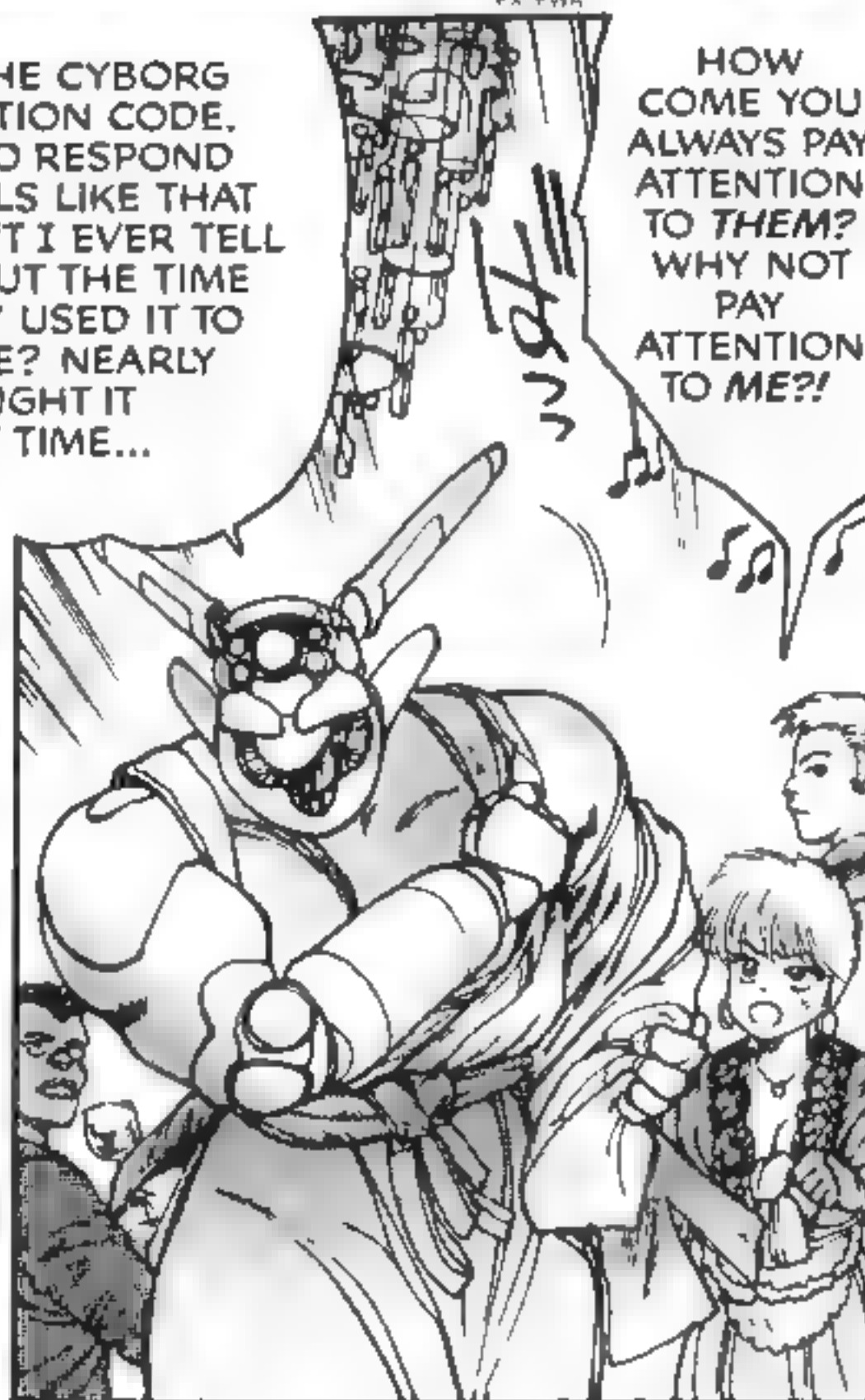
IT'S REAL CLOSE... I'VE GOT TO GO.



THE NAME'S BRIAREOS-- BRIAREOS HECATONCHIRES. HAVE MY COAT AND BAGS BROUGHT TO THE LOBBY.

YES, SIR.

IT'S IN THE CYBORG ASSOCIATION CODE. I HAVE TO RESPOND TO SIGNALS LIKE THAT ONE. DIDN'T I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME THAT GUY USED IT TO TRAP ME? NEARLY BOUGHT IT THAT TIME...



HOW COME YOU ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION TO THEM? WHY NOT PAY ATTENTION TO ME?!



OH, WOW! YOU GOTTA GO AL-READY?

PLISH

HERE'S YOUR JEWELRY BACK, HITOMI!

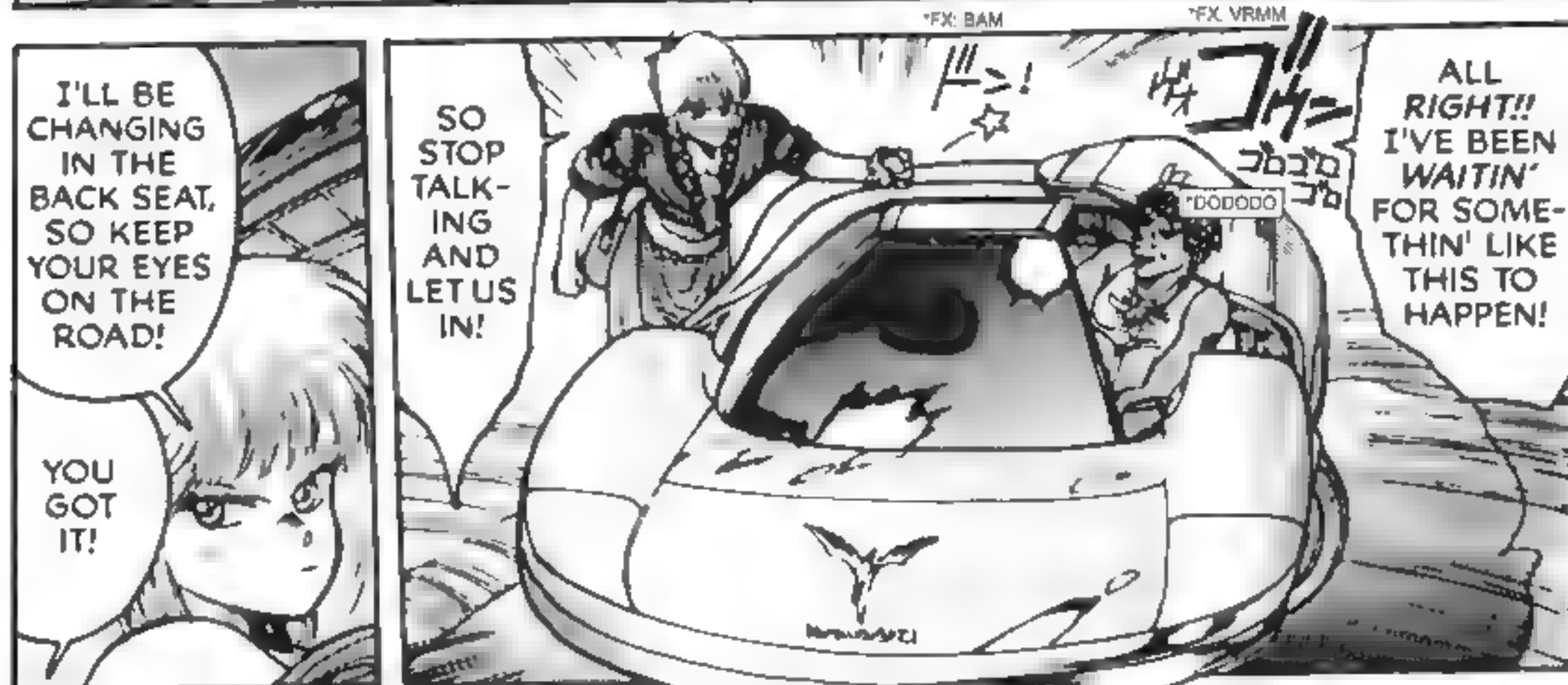


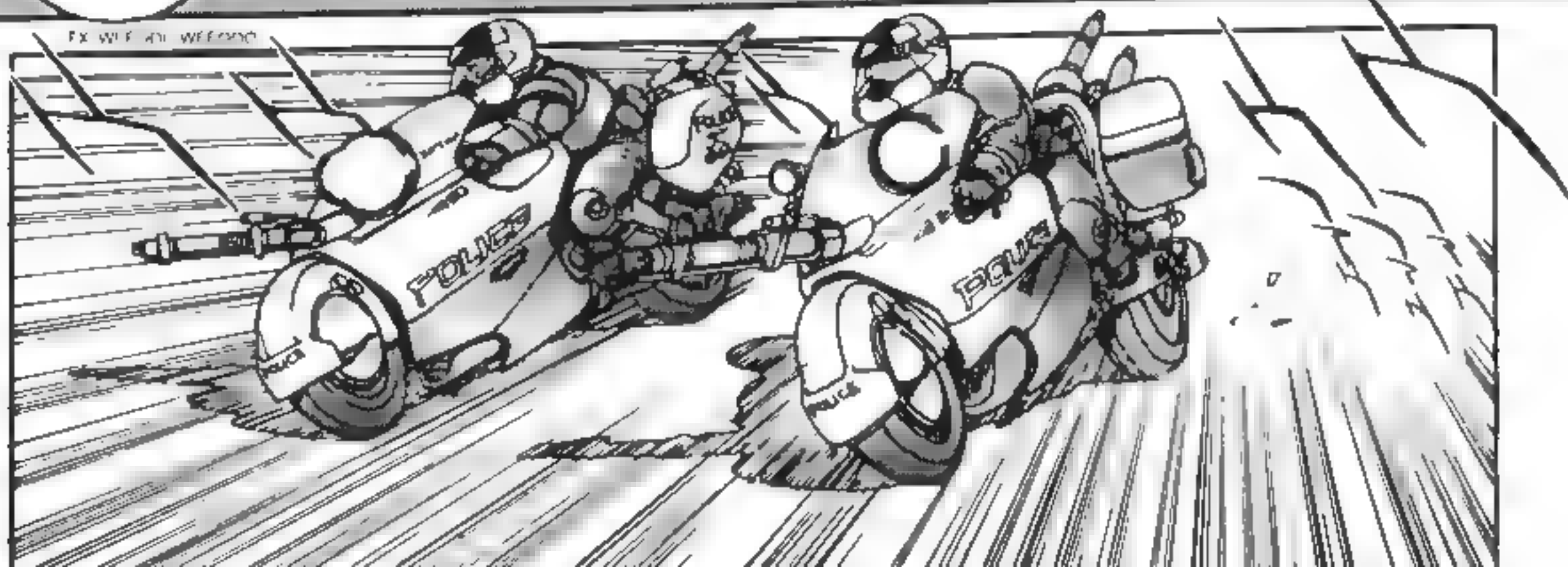
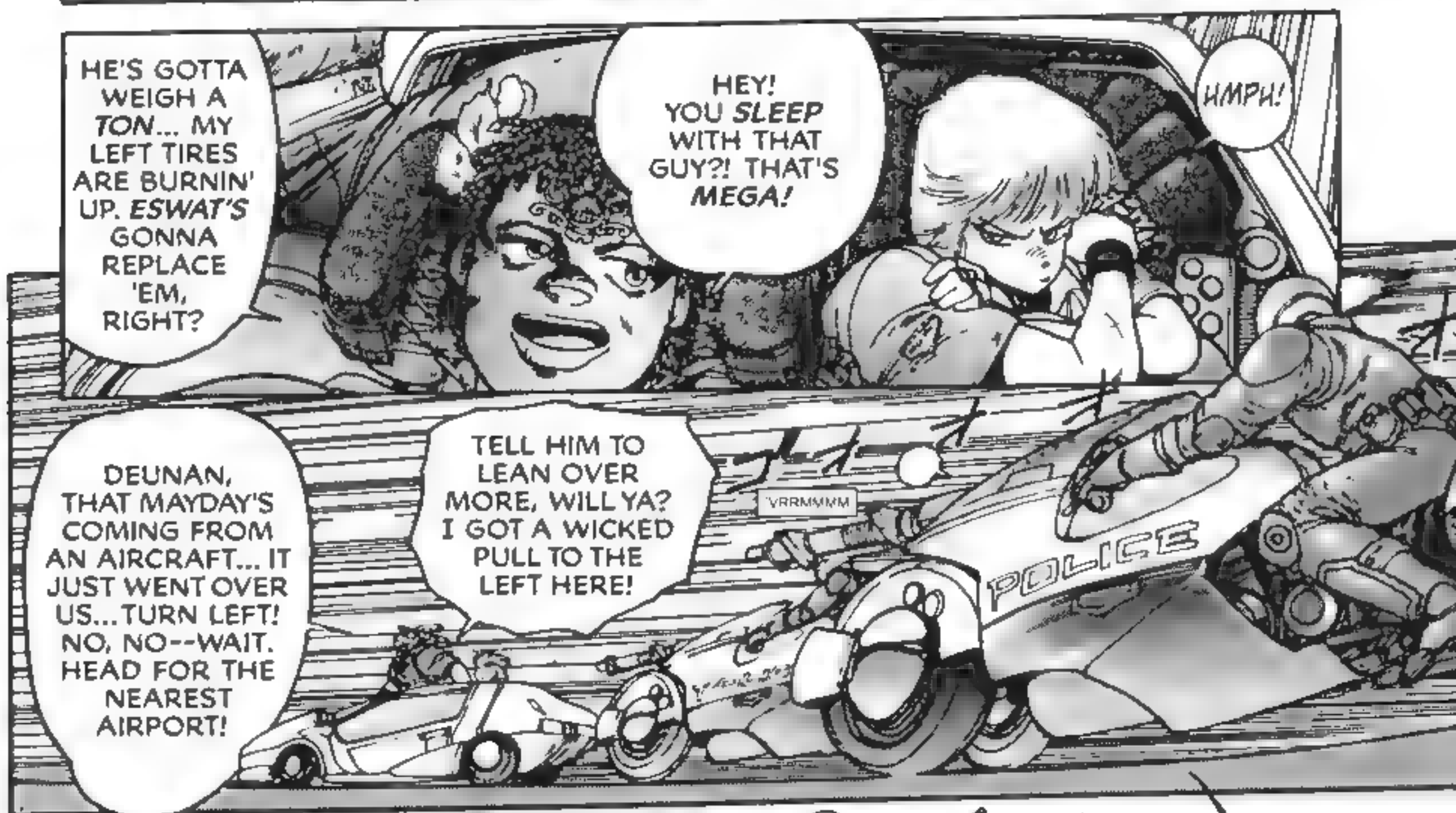
*FX KNCH *FX MMMMMM *FX GULP



*FX TAK TAK TAK *FX SUN

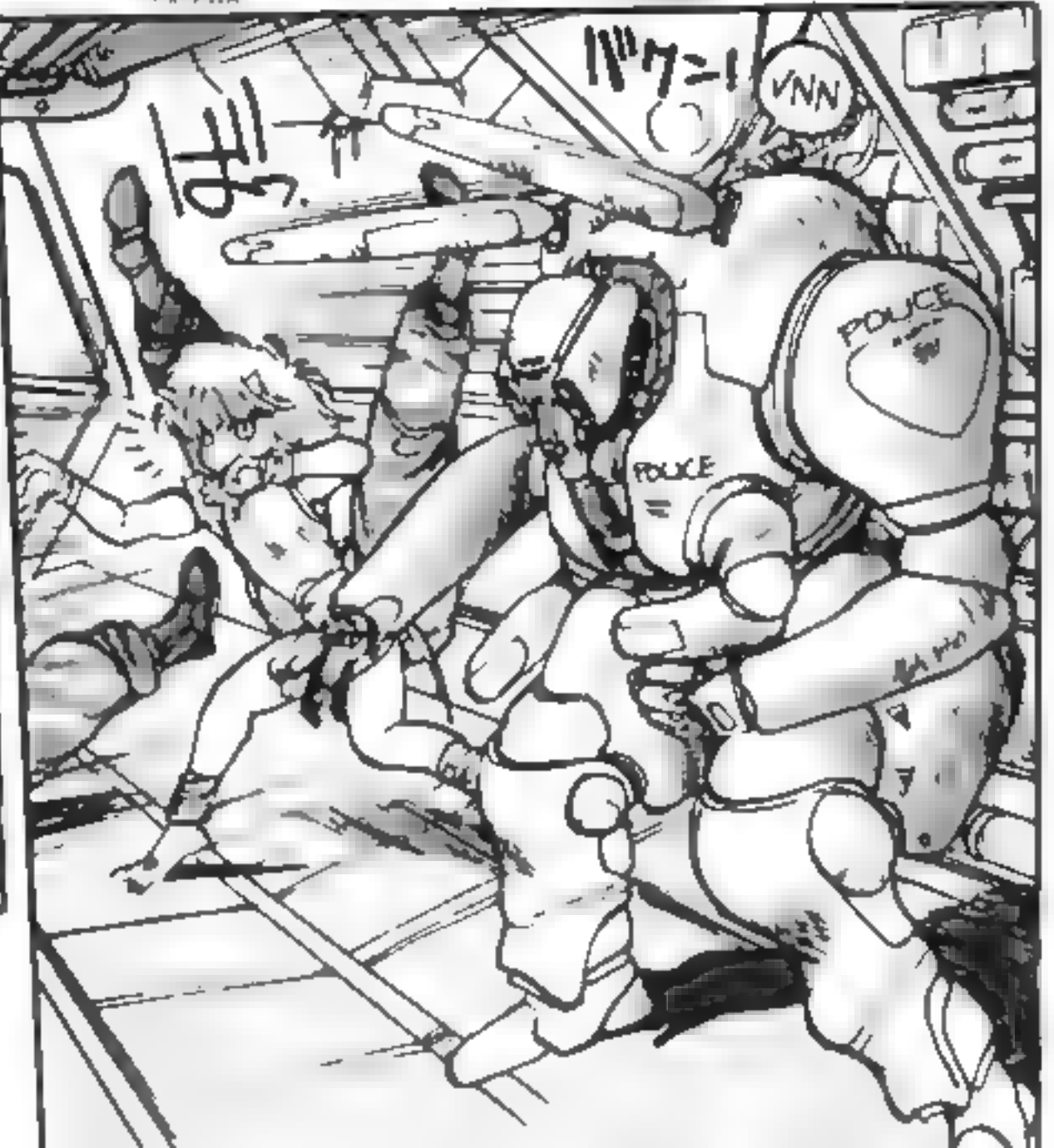
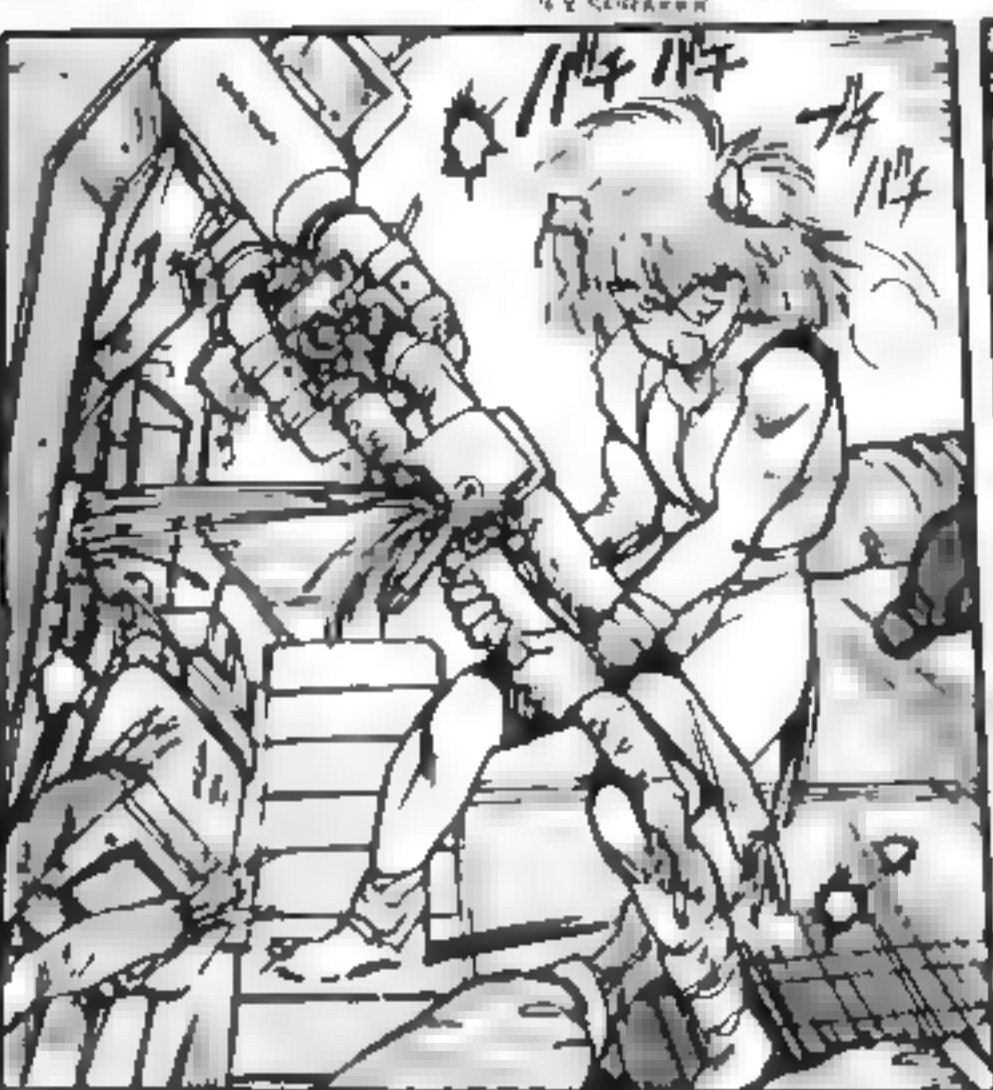














*FX WHRANNG

WHA?!

SON OF A BITCH! THE REACTOR CONTAINMENT FIELD'S FLUCTUATING-- DAMN!! THE SAFETY'S CUT IN!

*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP



WHEN I GET BACK, THOSE BASTARDS IN INTEL ARE DEAD MEAT!!

A DATA SCREW-UP, PAL! THEY GOT HER MODEL WRONG!



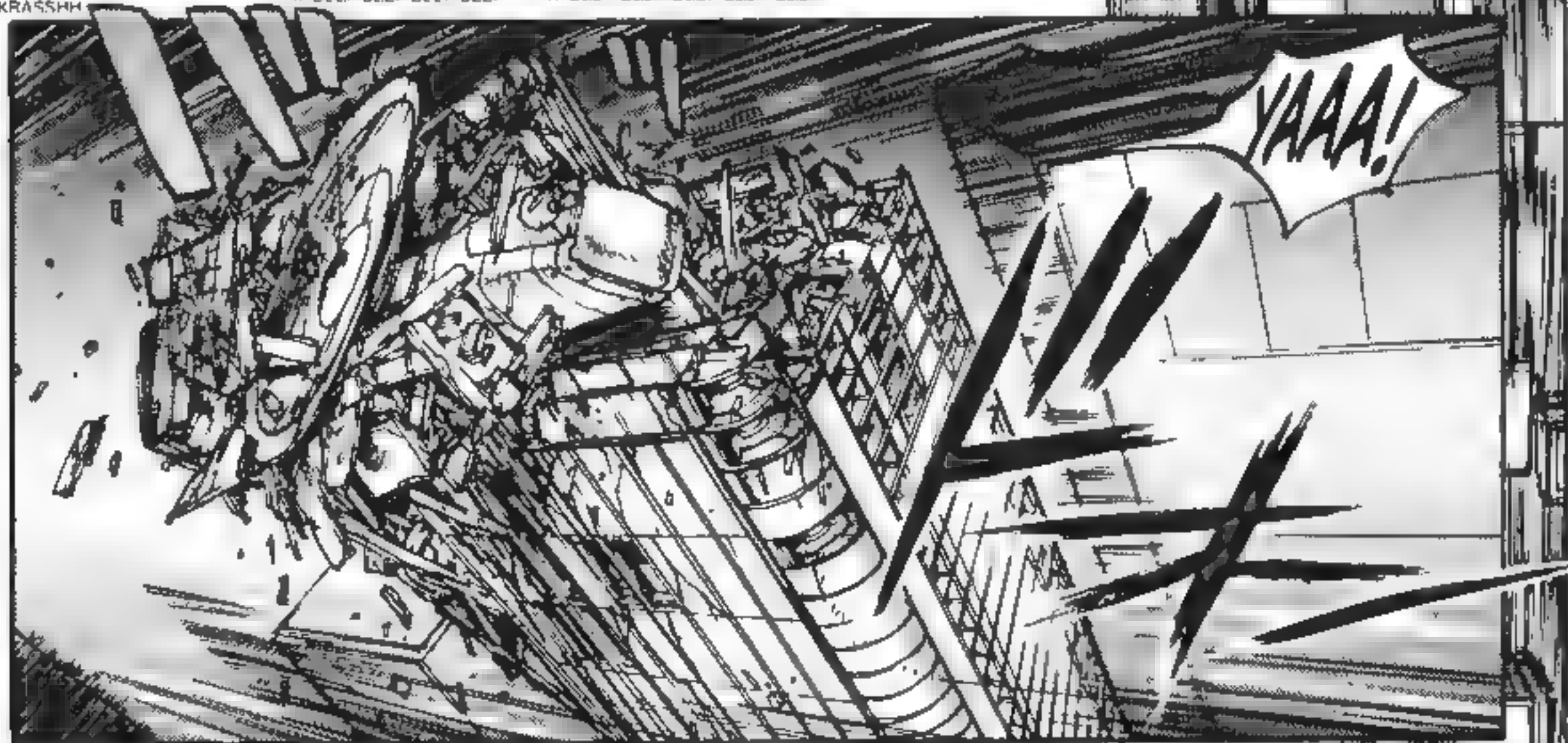
BUT HOW IN THE HELL COULD SHE...? THAT HIT YOU GAVE HER SHOULD HAVE LASTED TWICE AS LONG! AND EVEN IF SHE DID COME TO, HOW'D SHE GET OUT OF THE--

I'M TELLIN' YA, THAT'S HER!! THAT'S NO AUTOBUG OR LANDMATE MALFUNCTION!

*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

*FX SKRASSHH



YAAA!

*FX WKOOM



ABOUT TWELVE KLIKS!

HOW MUCH FARTHER TO THE AIR-PORT?!

AIEE!

HLE!



*FX BKROOOM



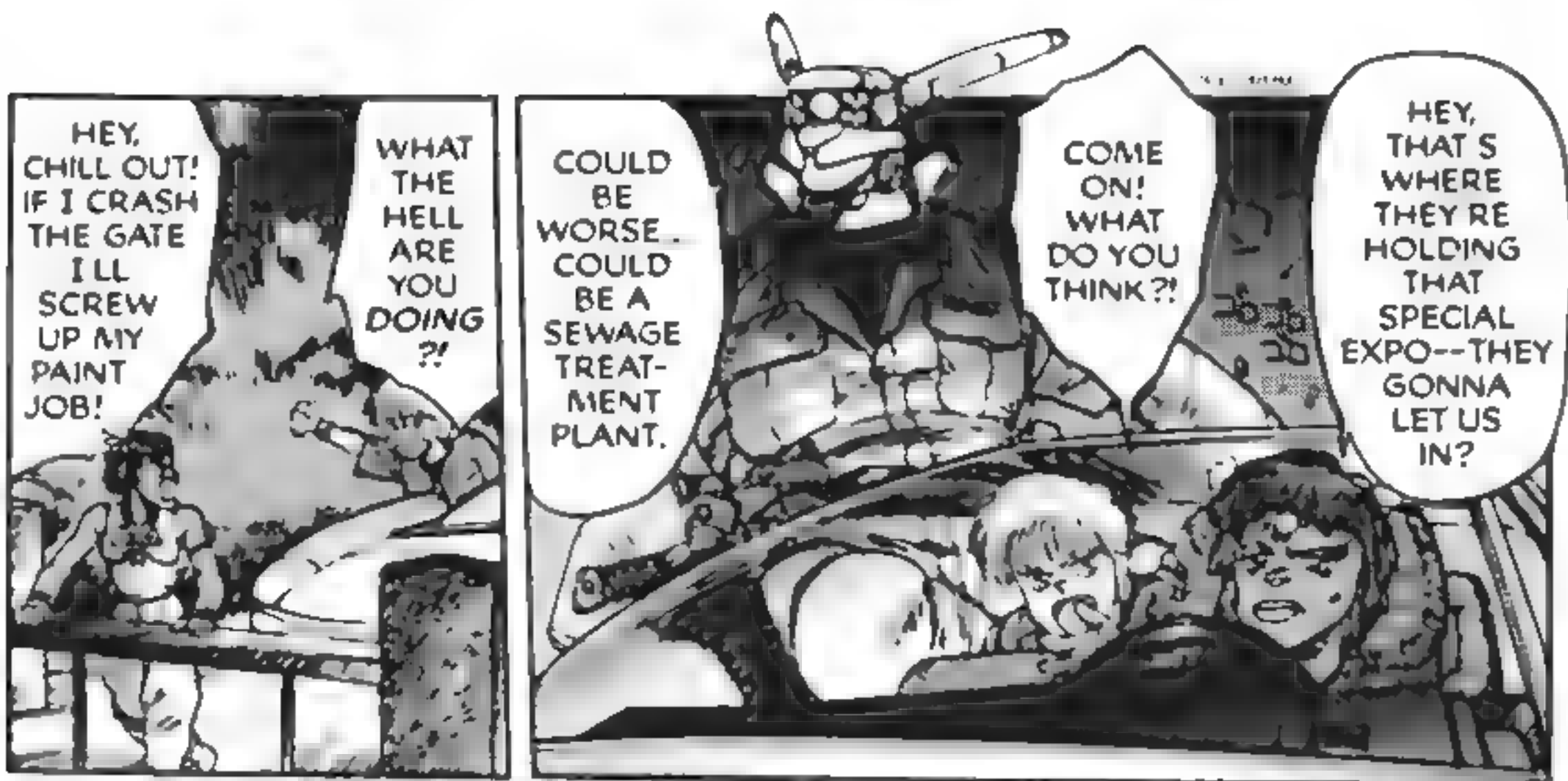
*FX BROARRR

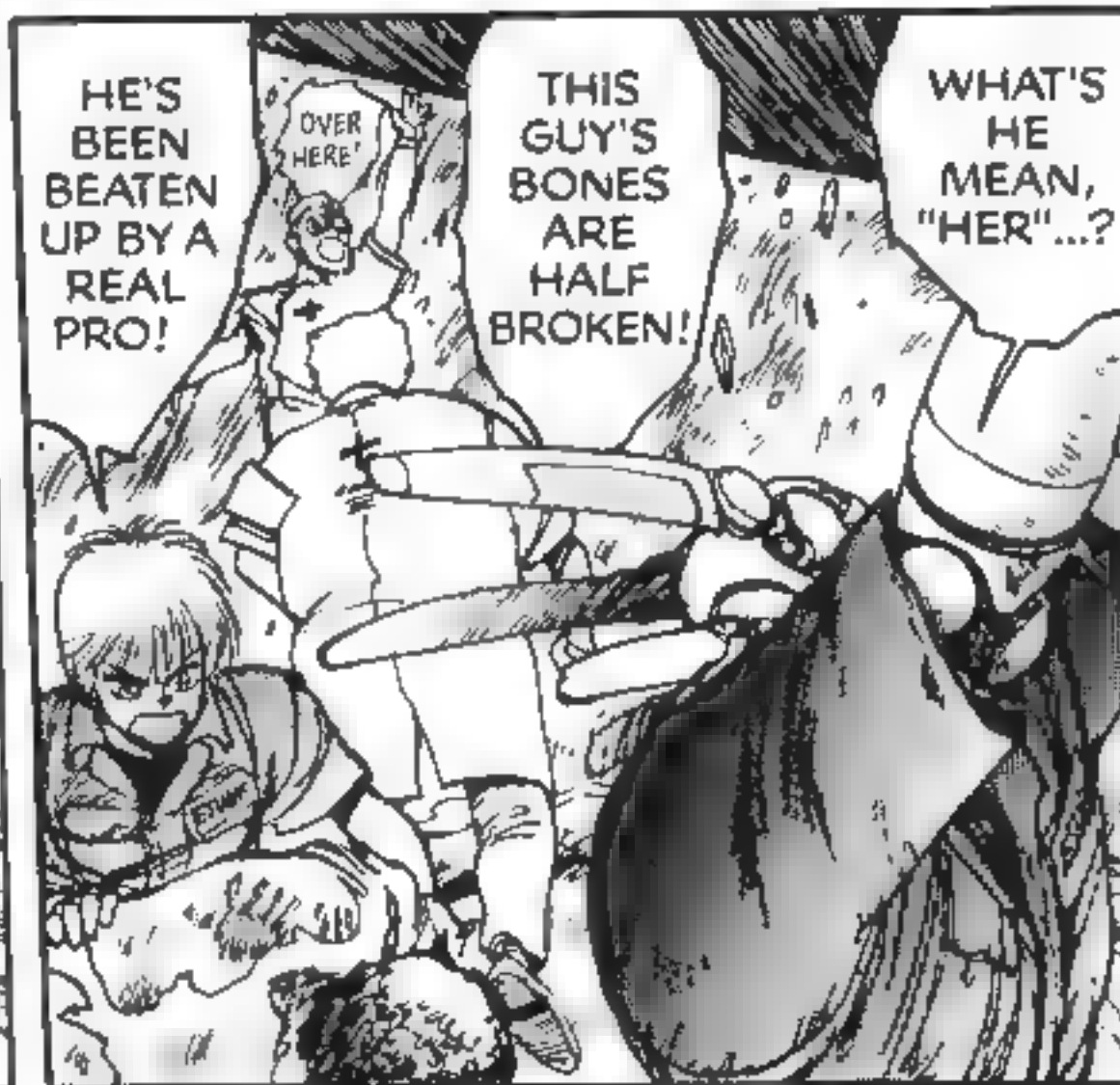


*FX CHNG / // *FX GISHOO



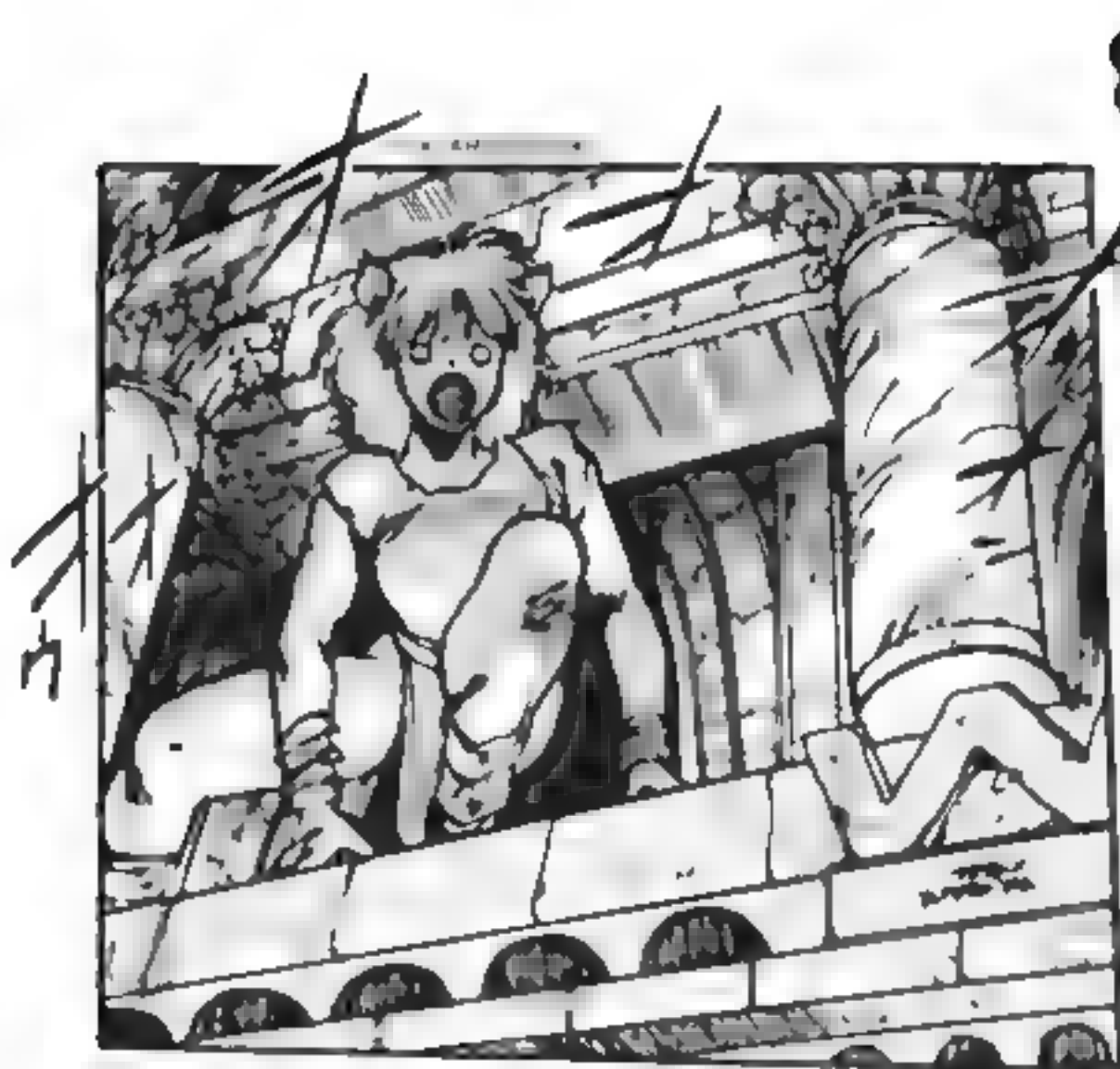
OVER
THERE!



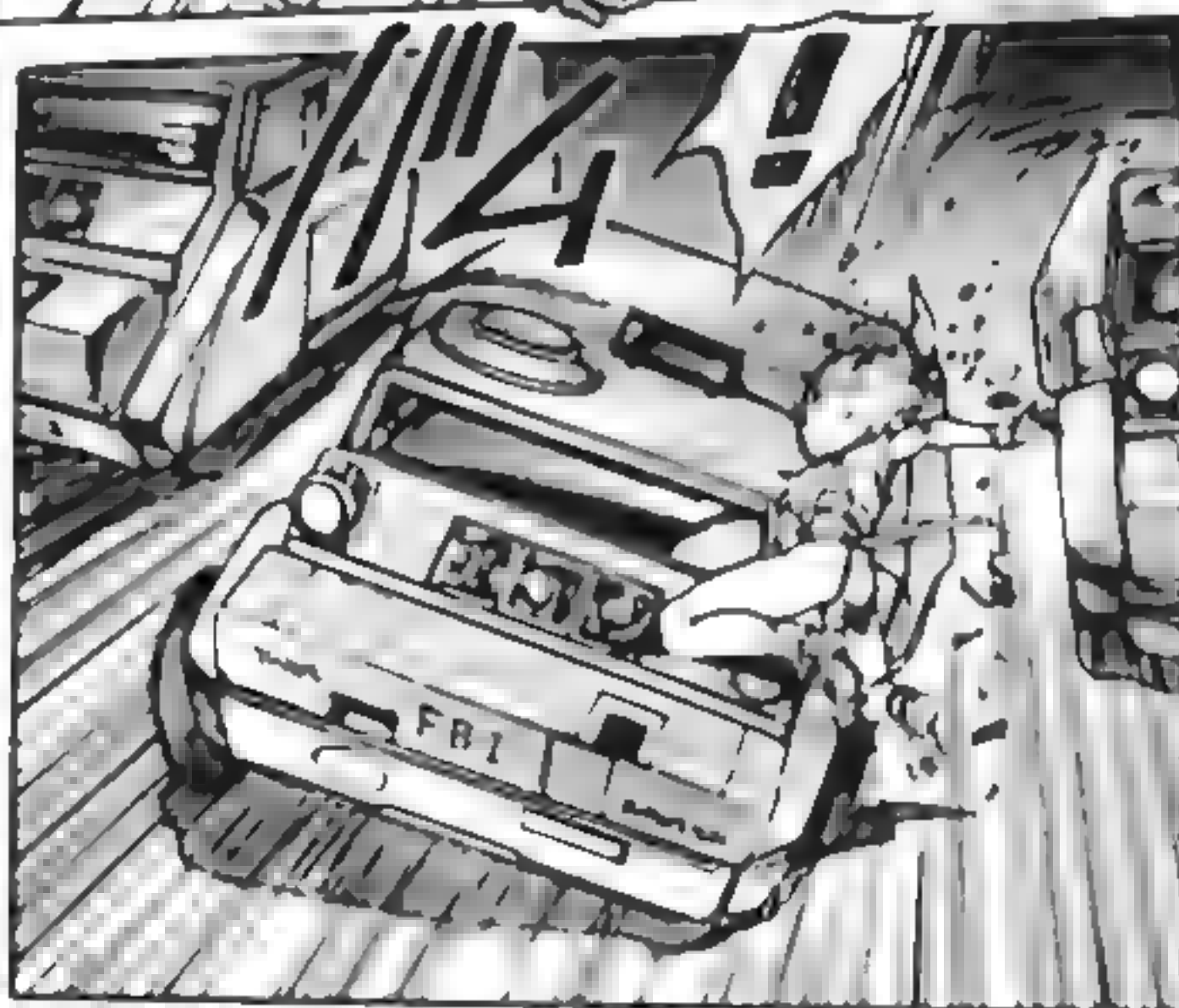
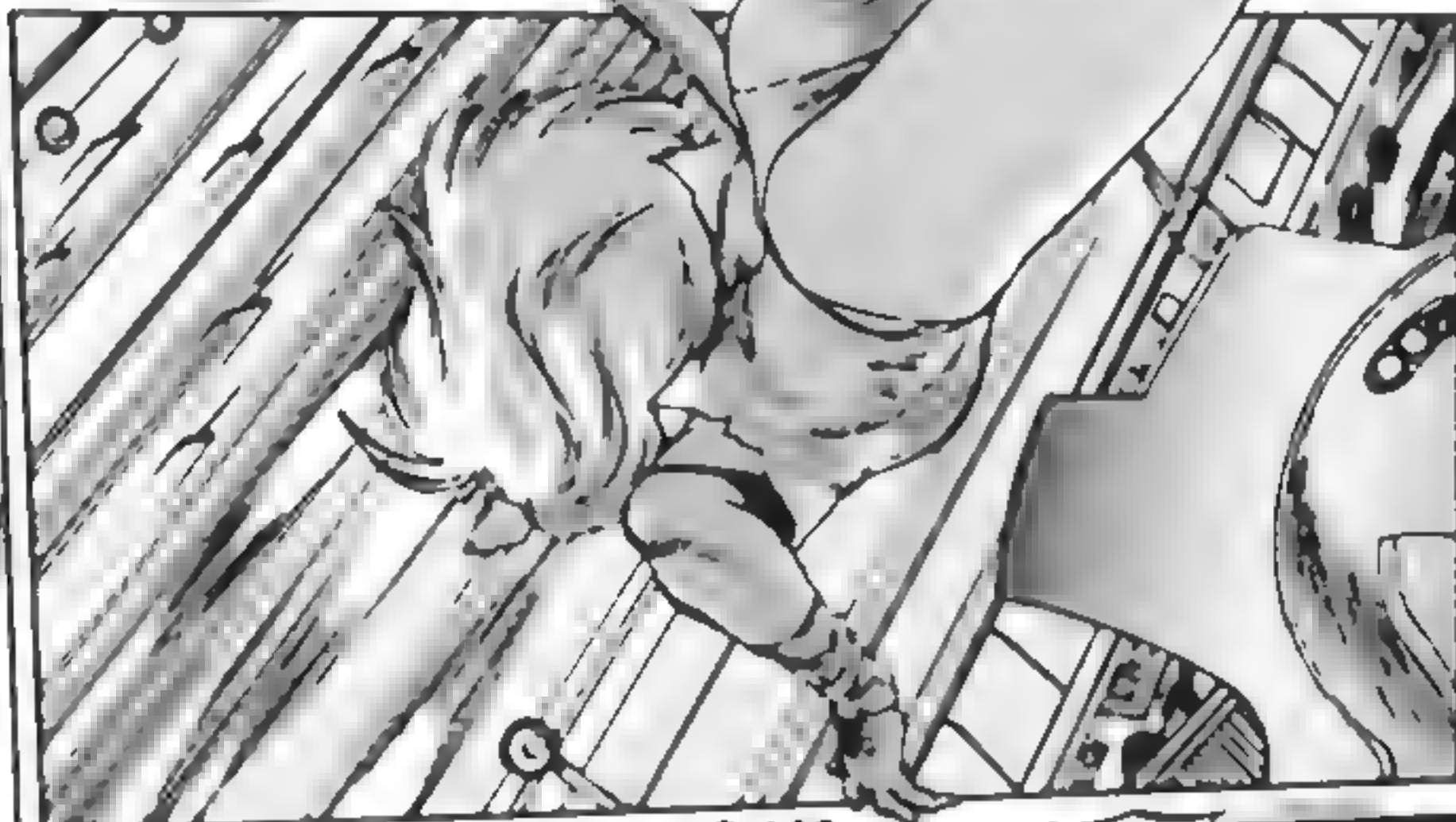


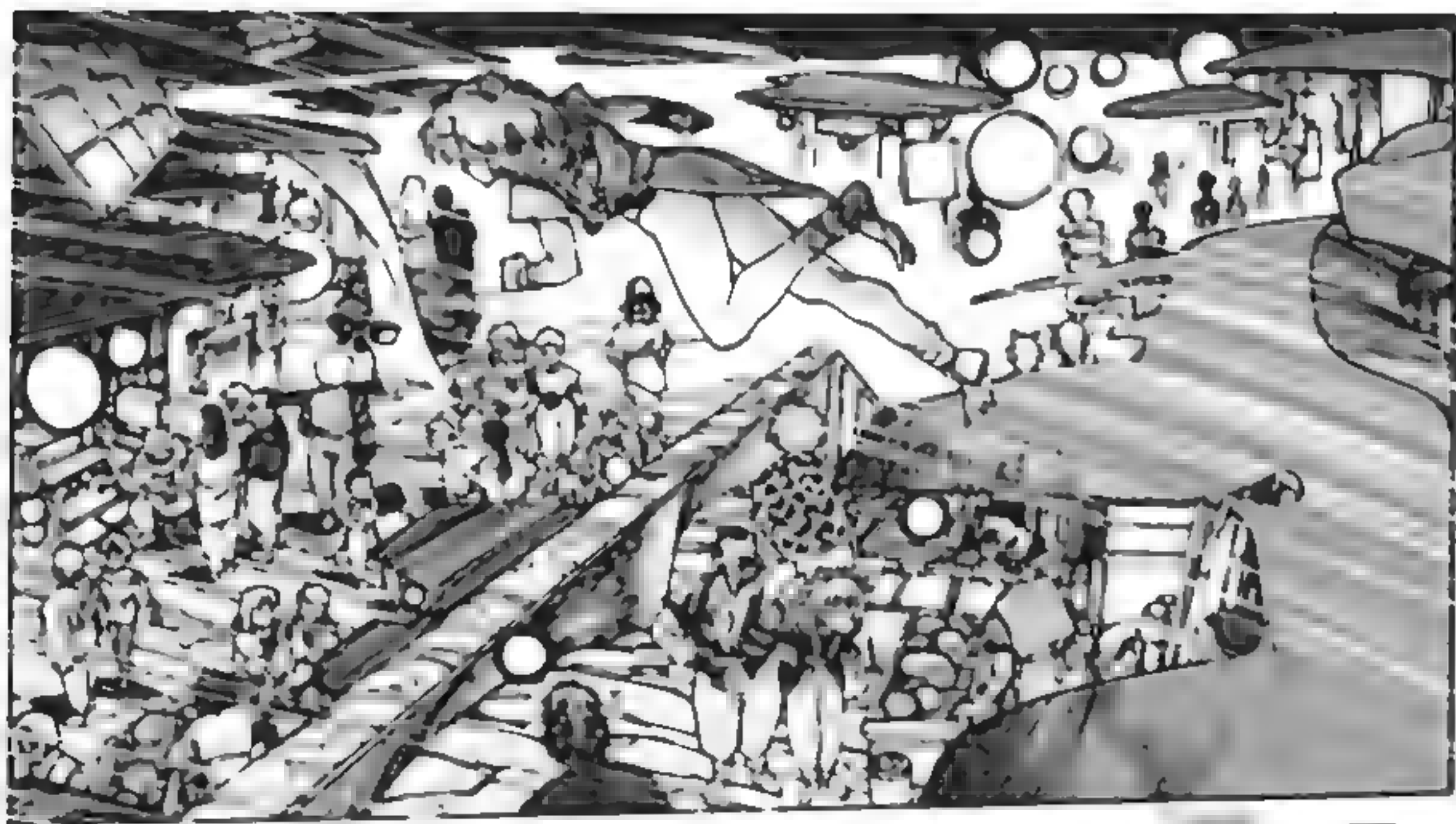
*FX ROAARRR





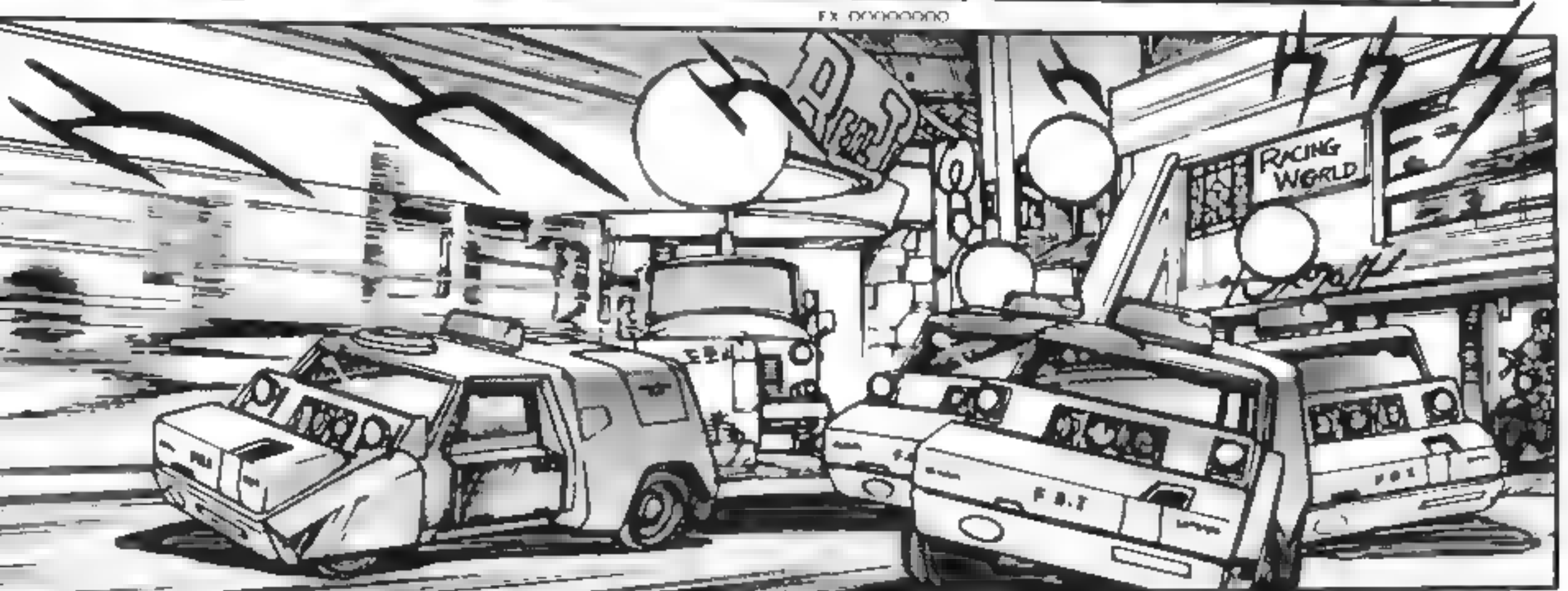


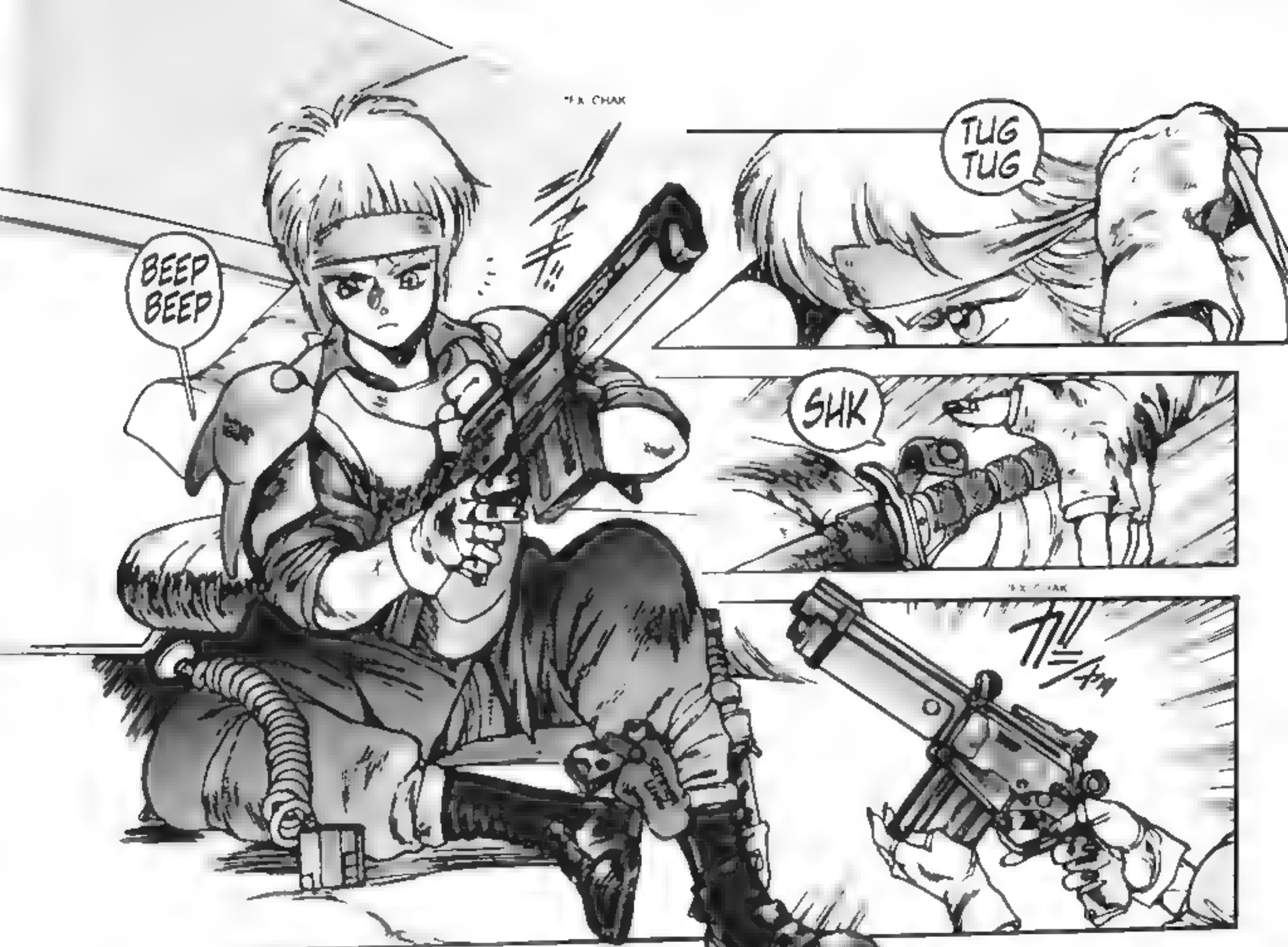




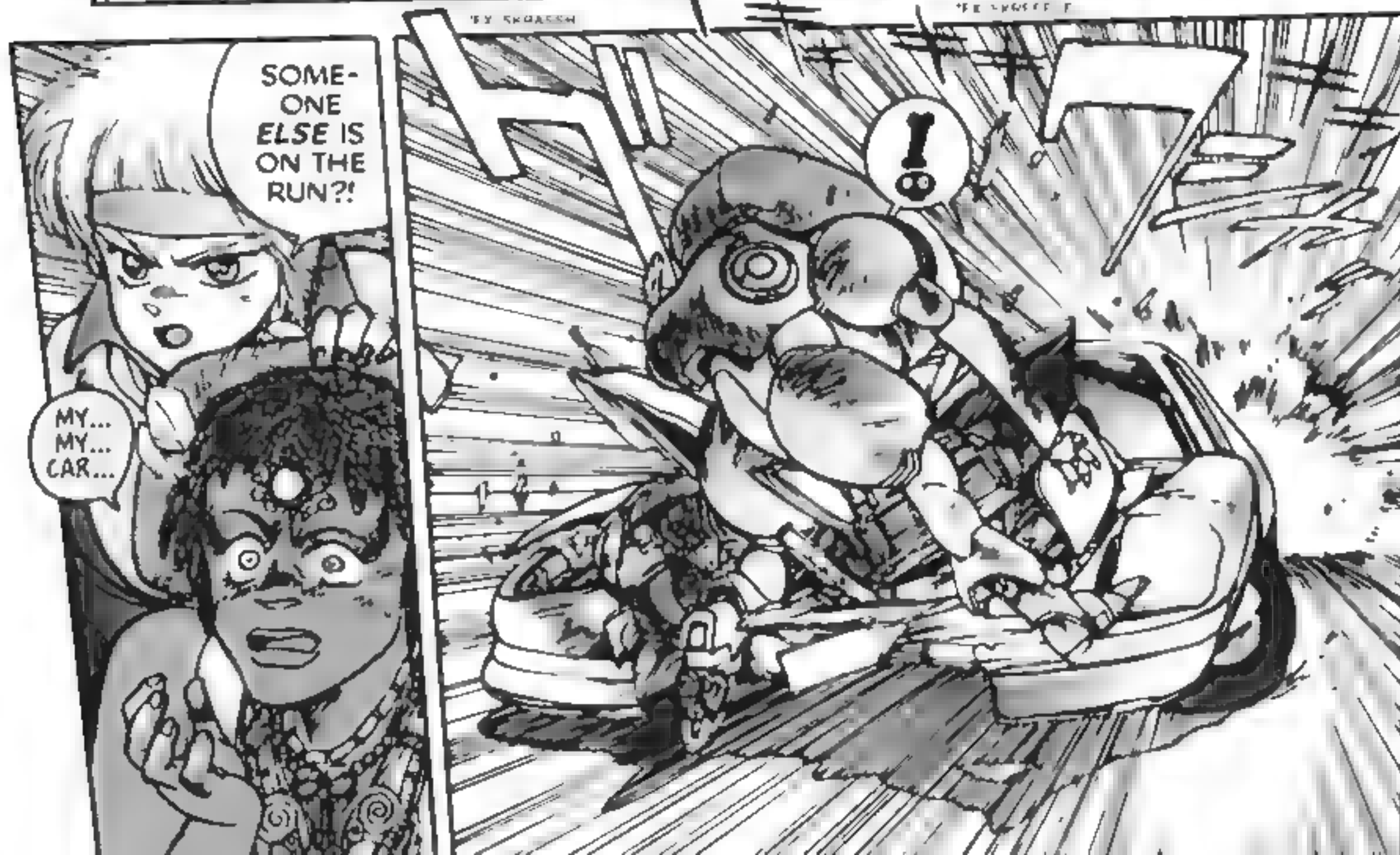


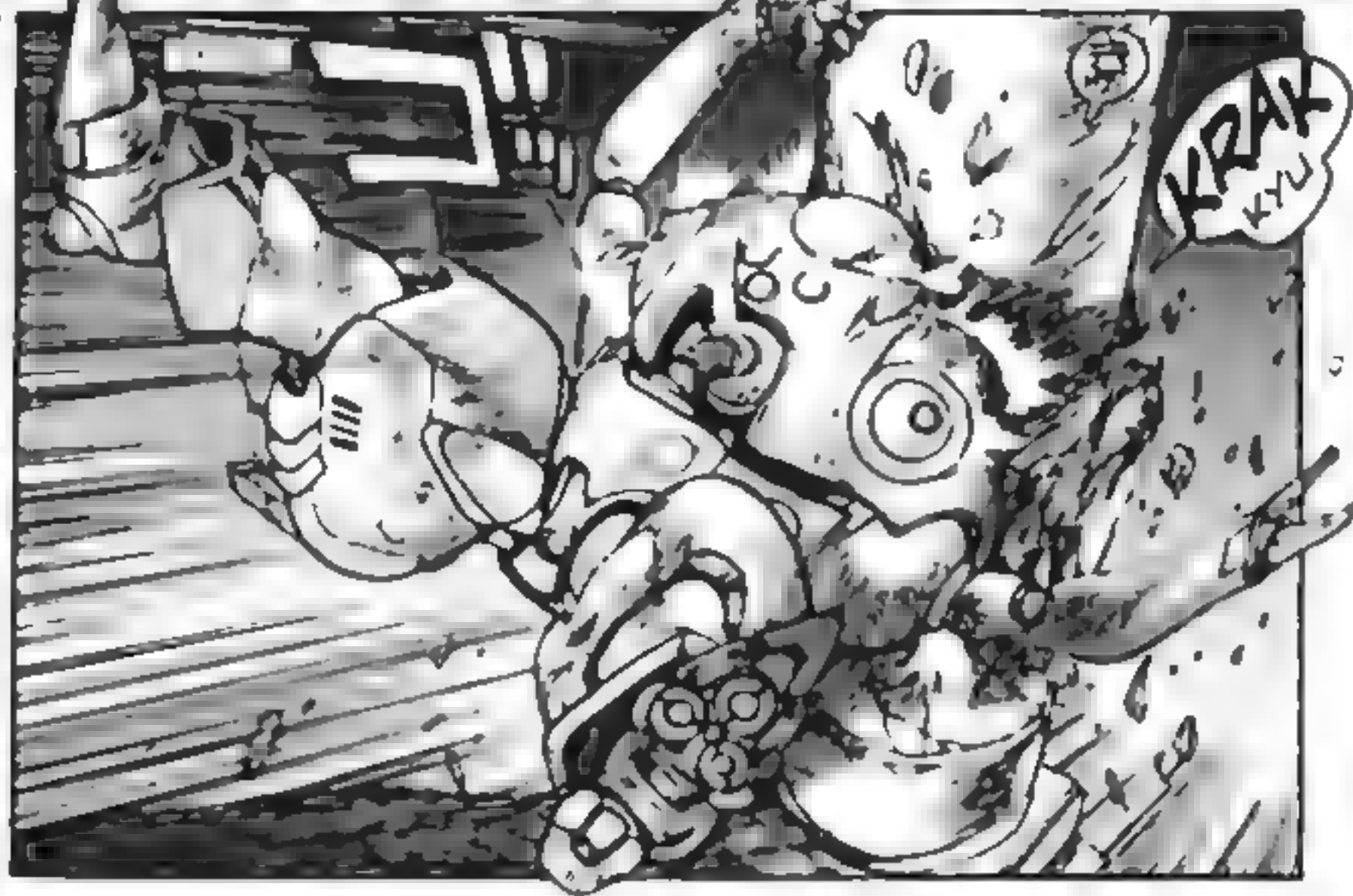


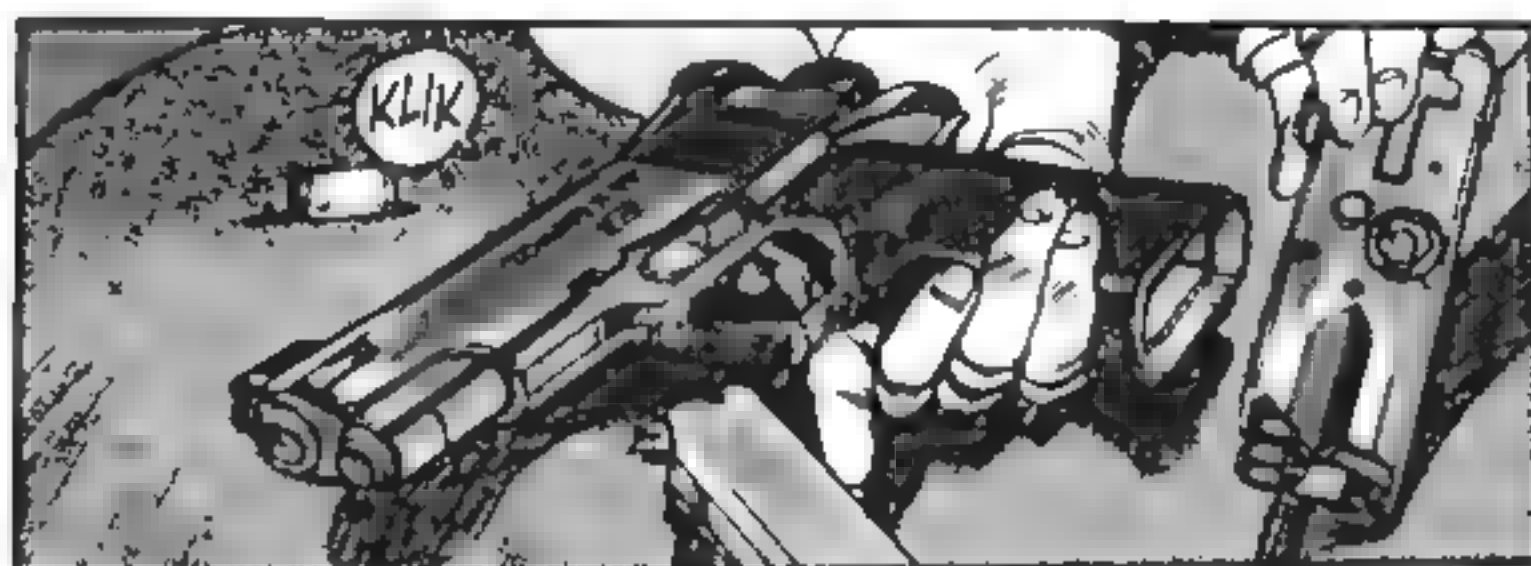




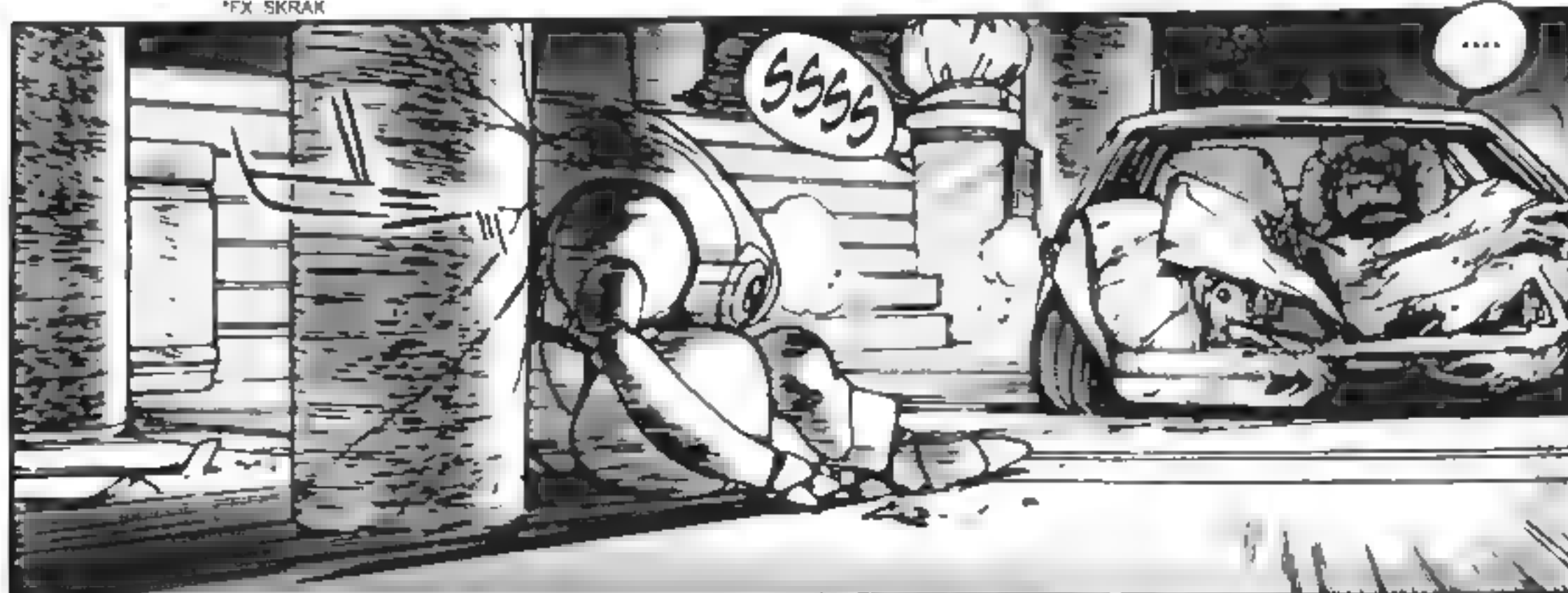
ANTI RIOT BATON ROUND







*FX SKRAK



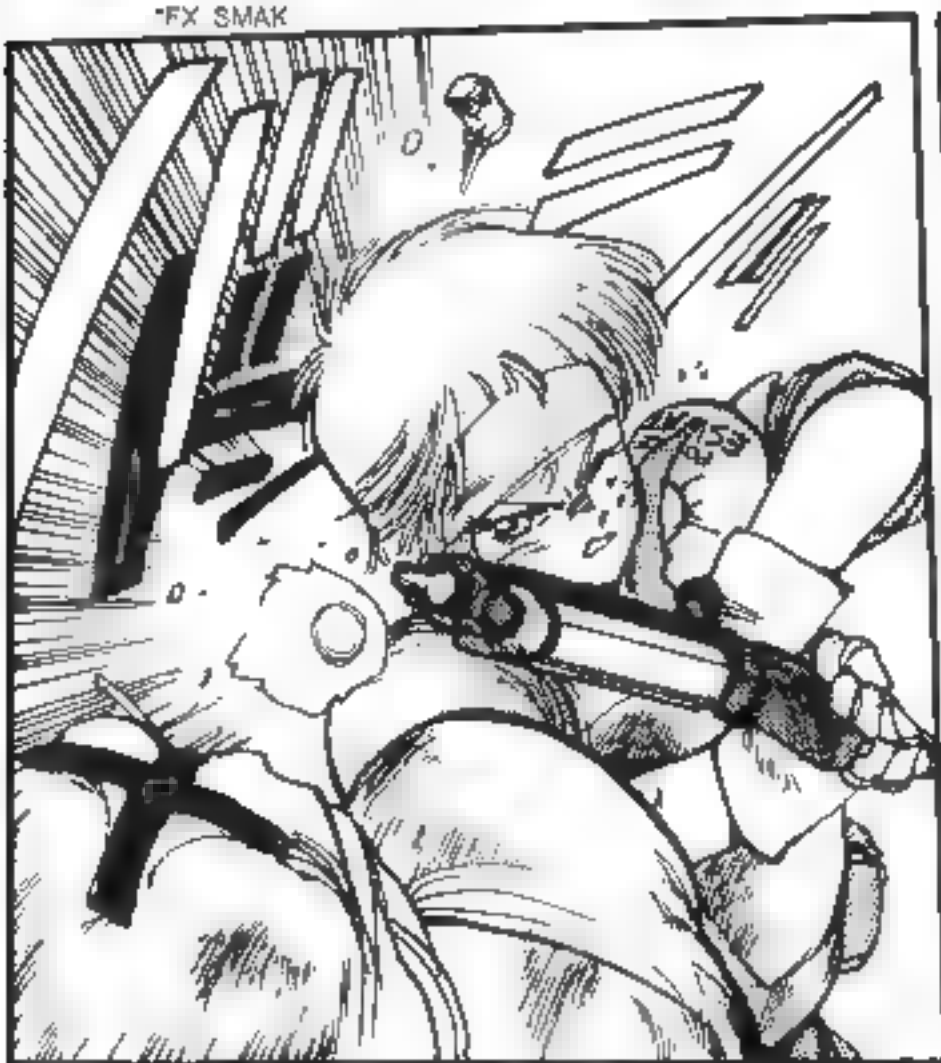
*FX VZZZ



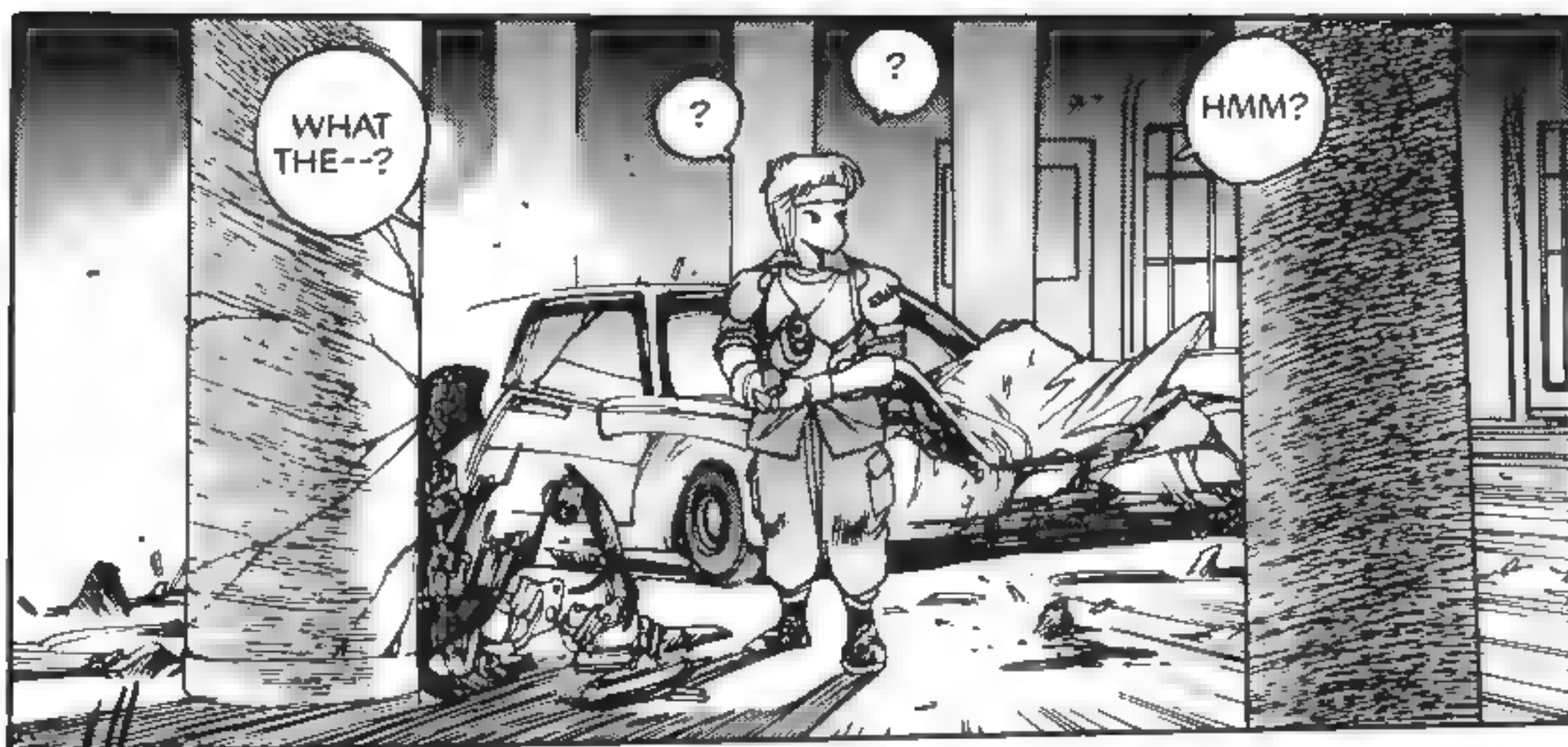
*FX SSSSS



*FX K-HAK







*FX SKREEEEE



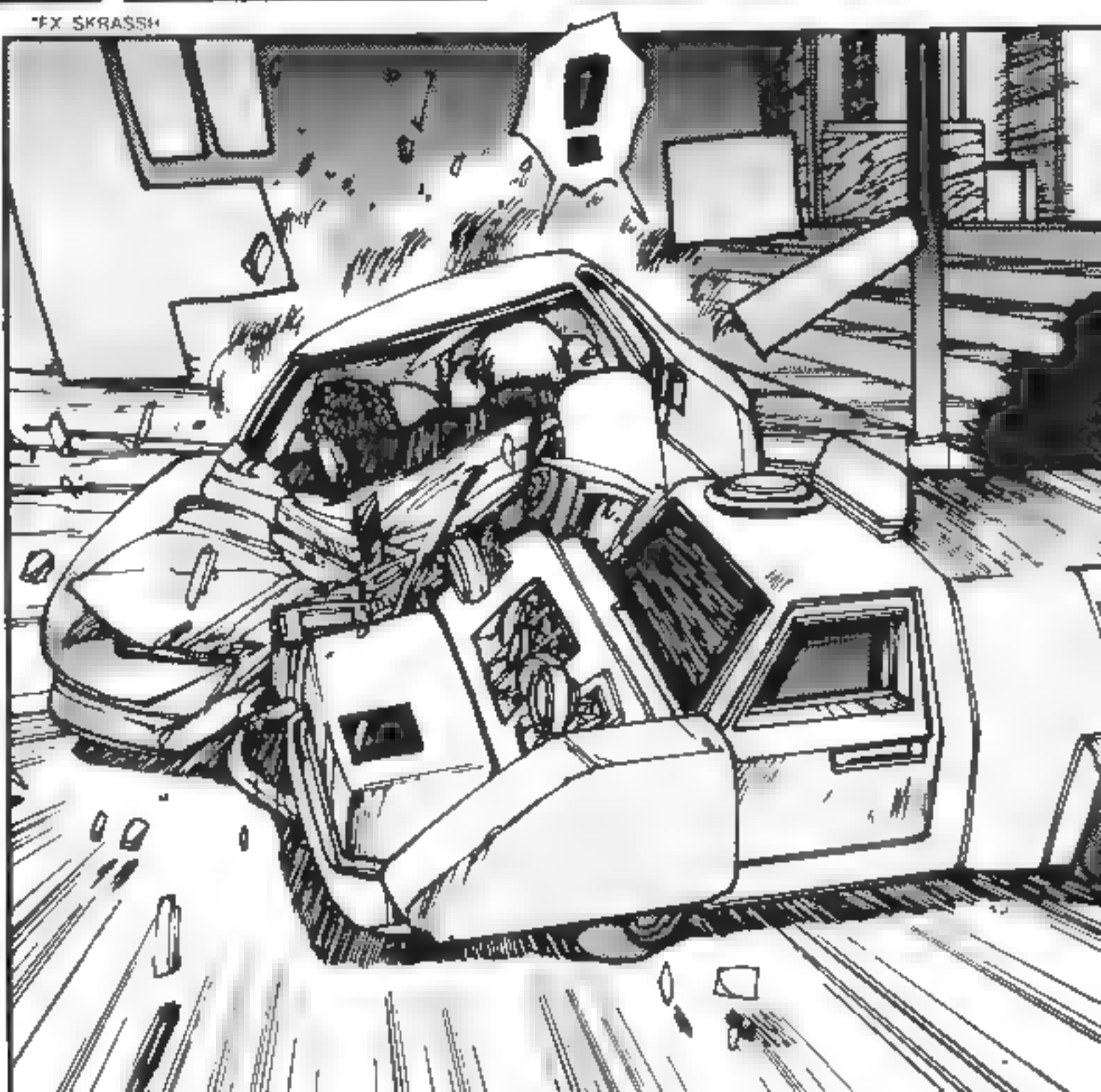
THEN
SHOVE
OVER!



HEY, JUST
HANG ON! I
WAS LOOKING
RIGHT AT THAT
FLASH...CAN'T
SEE A
GODDAMN
THING!

LET'S
GO!

*FX SKRASSH







YOU SURE CAN SWAP PARTS FAST WITH THAT H-CLASS CYBORG SYSTEM! I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU SO SOON!

HAH! BRIAREOS, WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU...!



ESWAT. LET ME THROUGH.

HOW THE HELL DO YOU RELEASE TH'S BODY ARMOR?

IF BRIAREOS WERE HERE, HE'D POUND YOU!



CHIEF! FANG'S TRACER SIGNAL IS CLOSING IN!

HMPH!

THANKS, BUT I'LL CHECK ANYWAY.

THE LOCAL RESCUE UNIT WILL VOUCH FOR OUR ALIBI.



EXCUSE ME! I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS!

SNFF!



YEAH...THAT GIRL WE WERE AFTER SHOT OUT MY LEFT EYE, SO ARUGESS CALLED IN A MEDITECH.

?

WAIT A SEC... "SWAP PARTS" ...?



IDIOT!



WELL, I'M PRETTY WELL ARMORED... FIGURED I'D BE FINE.

YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GO RUNNING OFF WITHOUT ANY BACK-UP...?

YOU DEPEND ON GUNS TOO MUCH! LOOK AT THOSE FBI GUYS...THEY DON'T EVEN DRAW UNTIL THE SHOOTING STARTS. AW...COME ON...I HATE IT WHEN YOU DO THAT...

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET WITH SOMEONE WHO'S ONLY DONE SWAT--NO INVESTIGATIVE WORK.

I--I WAS SCARED, DAMN IT! MY WARNING SHOT WAS OFF. THAT RIOT BATON ROUND DIDN'T WORK, NOT EVEN A DIRECT HIT AT POINT-BLANK RANGE! AND THEN I, I...

SNFF

HEY, YOUR FACE! THOSE SCRATCHES...

IDIOT!

BETTER DUMP THAT ARMOR, JUST IN CASE.

HER KNIFE HAD A PECULIAR SMELL. STRANGE SHEEN.

ZATCH

WELL, WHAT WAS SHE? CYBORG? I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT POSEIDON HAVING BIOROID TECHNOLOGY.

SO SHE'S ALL YOURS NOW.

SHE GOT AWAY, BUT I HIT HER WITH A B-TYPE ODOR BOMB.

H-HEY! THAT'S THE GUY WHO...



AFTER THAT, I'M GOING TO COMB THE AREA WHERE SHE LOST ME.

I NEED FIFTEEN MINUTES TO TRANSCRIBE MY REPORT. I'LL DELIVER IT TO YOUR VEHICLE.

I GUARANTEE SHE'S NOT AN OLYMPUS COMBAT BIOROID. NO RESONANCE.



NOT RUNNERS, EITHER. THEY'RE CLEAN.

DIFFERENT SMELL. DIFFERENT FEELING.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE TWO?

I'M LEAVING MY PRIVATE COMLINK OPEN. IF THE DRAGNET SNARES HER, CALL ME.



YEAH. LOOKS LIKE WE CAN RE-STORE THE ANTI-CYBORG RIFLES WHILE WAITING FOR THEIR ALIBI TO CLEAR.

YOU HEAR THAT?

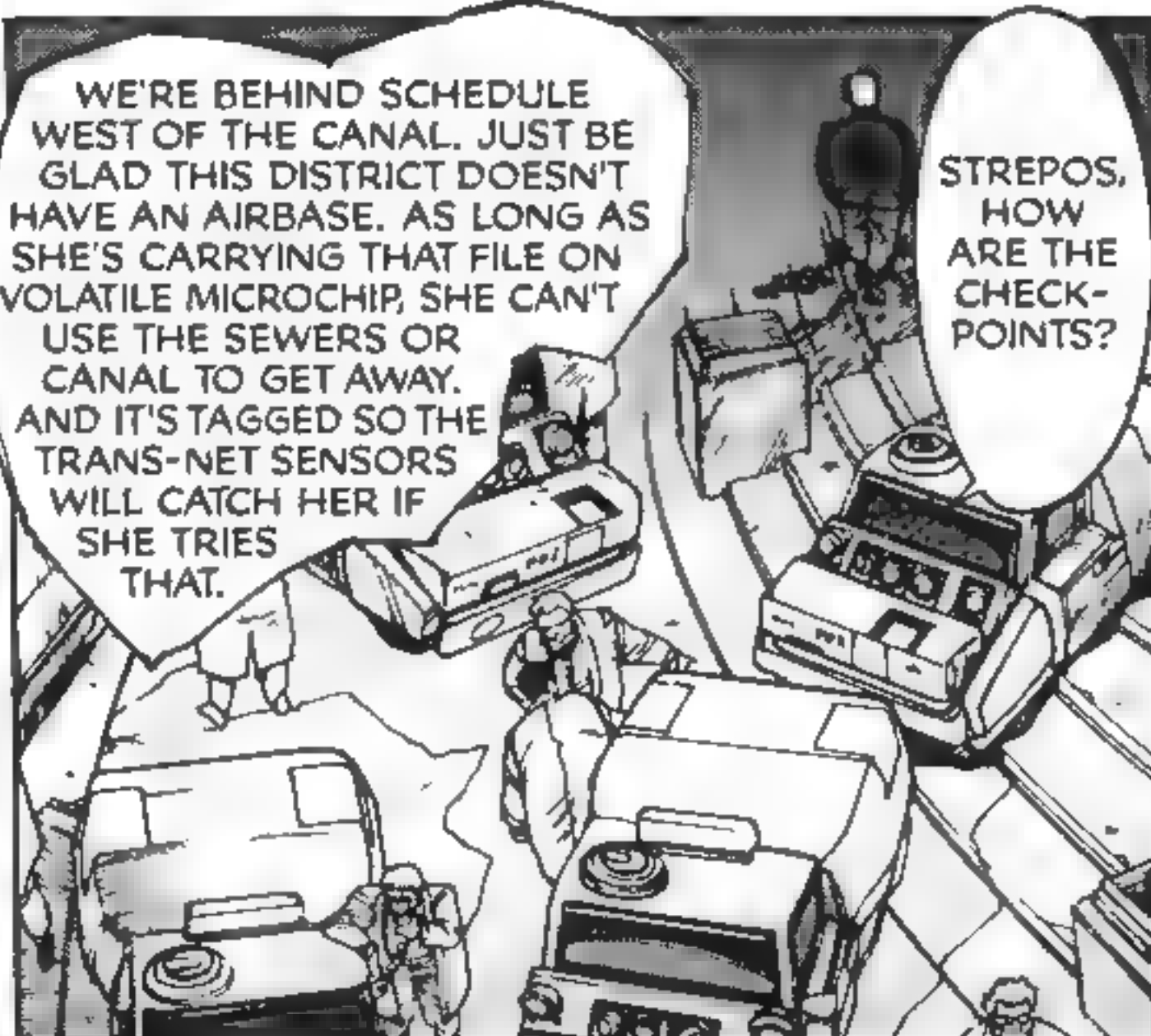


FANG, WAIT.



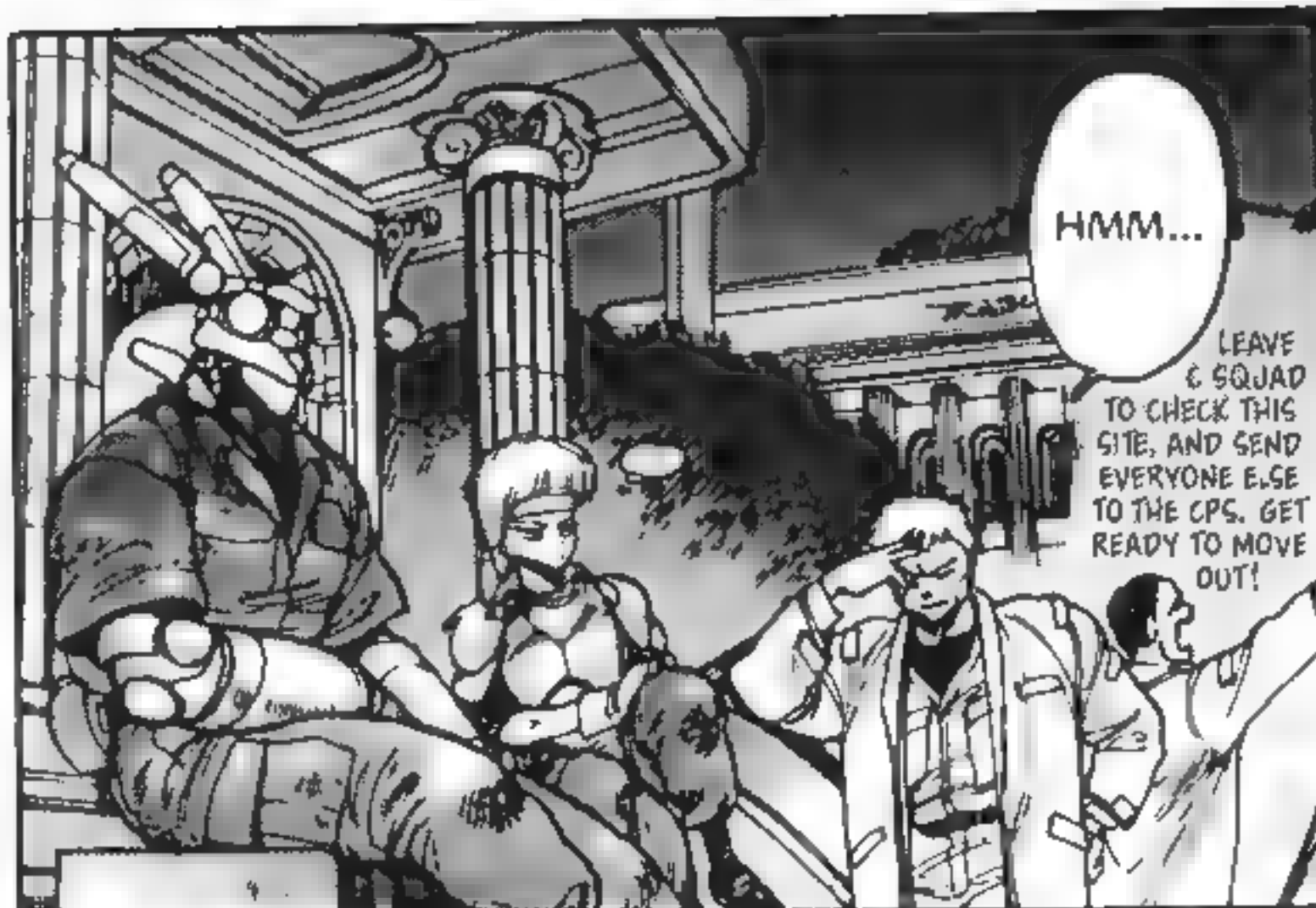
FORGET IT. STAY CLEAN.

THANKS FOR SAVING MY NECK! I OWE YOU ONE.



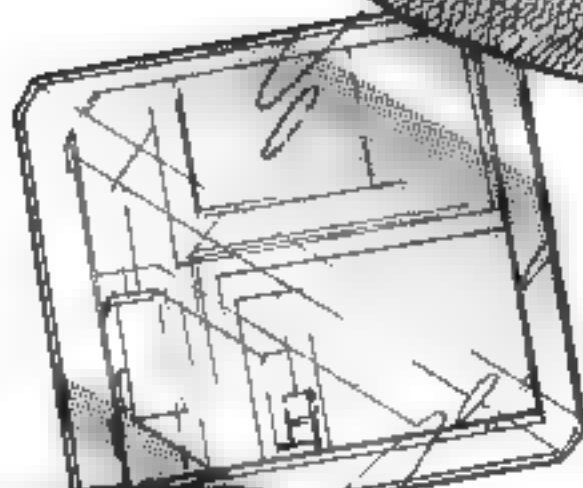
WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE WEST OF THE CANAL. JUST BE GLAD THIS DISTRICT DOESN'T HAVE AN AIRBASE. AS LONG AS SHE'S CARRYING THAT FILE ON VOLATILE MICROCHIP, SHE CAN'T USE THE SEWERS OR CANAL TO GET AWAY. AND IT'S TAGGED SO THE TRANS-NET SENSORS WILL CATCH HER IF SHE TRIES THAT.

STREPOS, HOW ARE THE CHECKPOINTS?





HMMM...
EVEN AT
MAXIMUM
ZOOM I
CAN ONLY
JUST MAKE
OUT THE
BASIC
PATTERN.



#3

*FX ZRRY

IF
THAT SPY
YESTERDAY
REALLY *DID*
PLANT IT
ON ME,
SHE'LL BE
COMING
HERE TO
GET IT
BACK!

HEY!
I JUST
THOUGHT
OF
SOME-
THING!

SO THAT'S WHY SHE
WENT FOR THE BACK
OF MY HEAD THAT
WAY-- SHE MUST HAVE
BEEN DESPERATE TO
UNLOAD IT. I GUESS
I OWE MY LIFE TO
THAT "FANG" GUY
TWICE OVER.
SHOULD WE
TAKE IT
TO THE
FBI?

IT'S A
TYPICAL,
EVEN
HACKNEYED
TRICK.

I CAN'T TELL IF
IT'S PART OF A FILE
OR SOME KIND
OF DECRYPTION
KEY. BUT JUDGING
FROM THE
SITUATION, I'D SAY
IT MUST BE WHAT
THE FBI WAS
SEARCHING FOR
YESTERDAY.

DIDN'T SHE
WORRY
ABOUT IT
FALLING OFF?
AND HOW
ABOUT ME
FINDING IT,
LIKE I JUST
DID?

IF YOU'RE
GONNA GO
FISHING, MAY
AS WELL TRY
FOR THE BIG
ONE.

NO PROBLEM.
WE GIVE IT TO
THE FBI, THEY
GIVE US A FAKE
CHIP MICRO-
TRANSMITTER.
YOU PUT IT BACK
ON YOUR NECK
WHERE IT WAS
STUCK BEFORE,
AND WAIT.

OUR SPY
FRIEND CAN
AMUSE
HERSELF
ROOTING
THROUGH
OUR
GARBAGE.

USING THAT
ZOOM
FUNCTION IS
TOUGH!

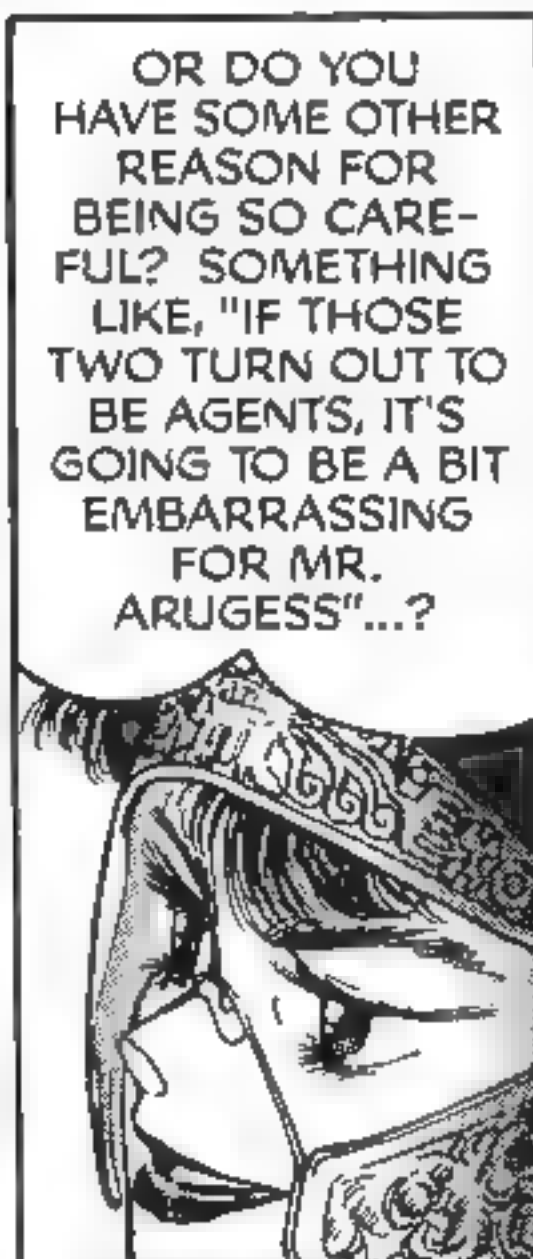
LOOKS
LIKE WE
SHOULD
TAKE A
WALK.

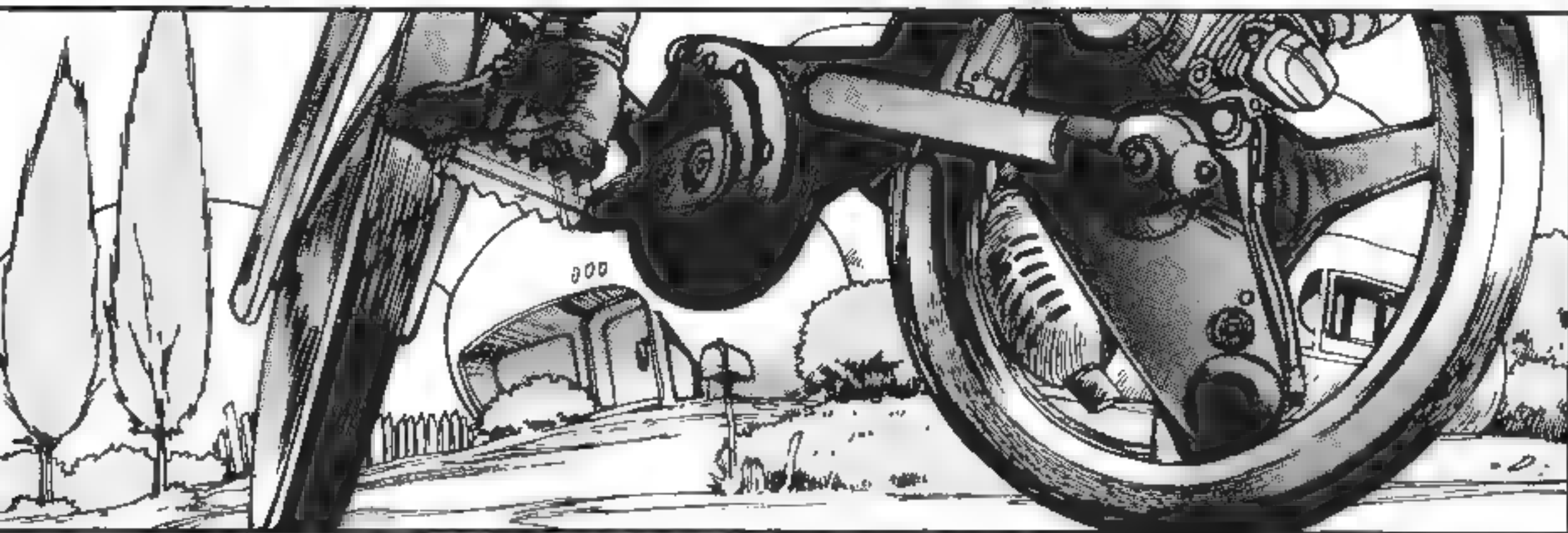
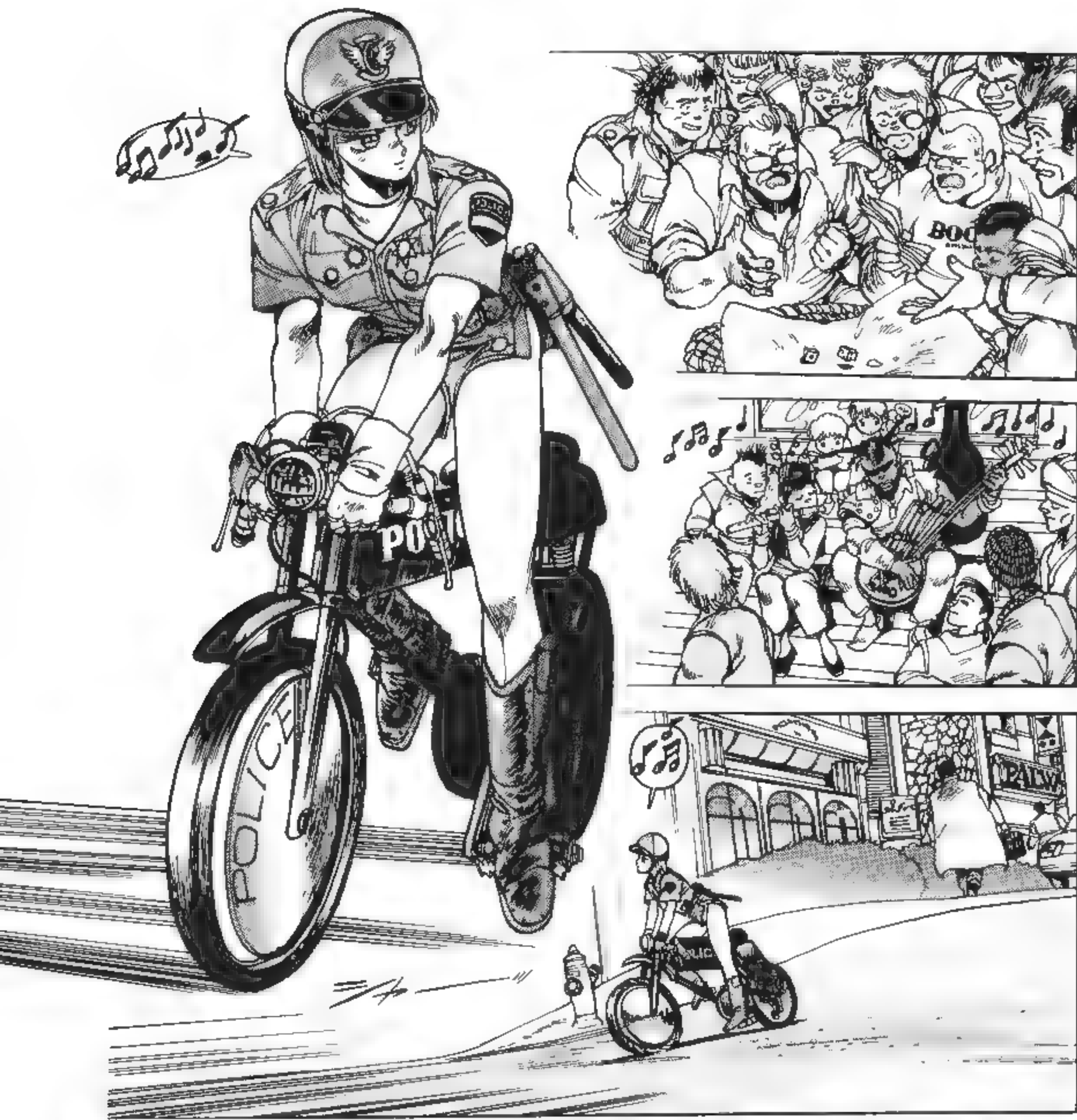
I GUESS YOU'RE
RIGHT. STILL, THAT SPY
MUST BE DESPERATE
TO GET AWAY, WHICH
MEANS SHE'LL
PROBABLY WANT
TO MAKE CONTACT
SOMETIME TODAY.

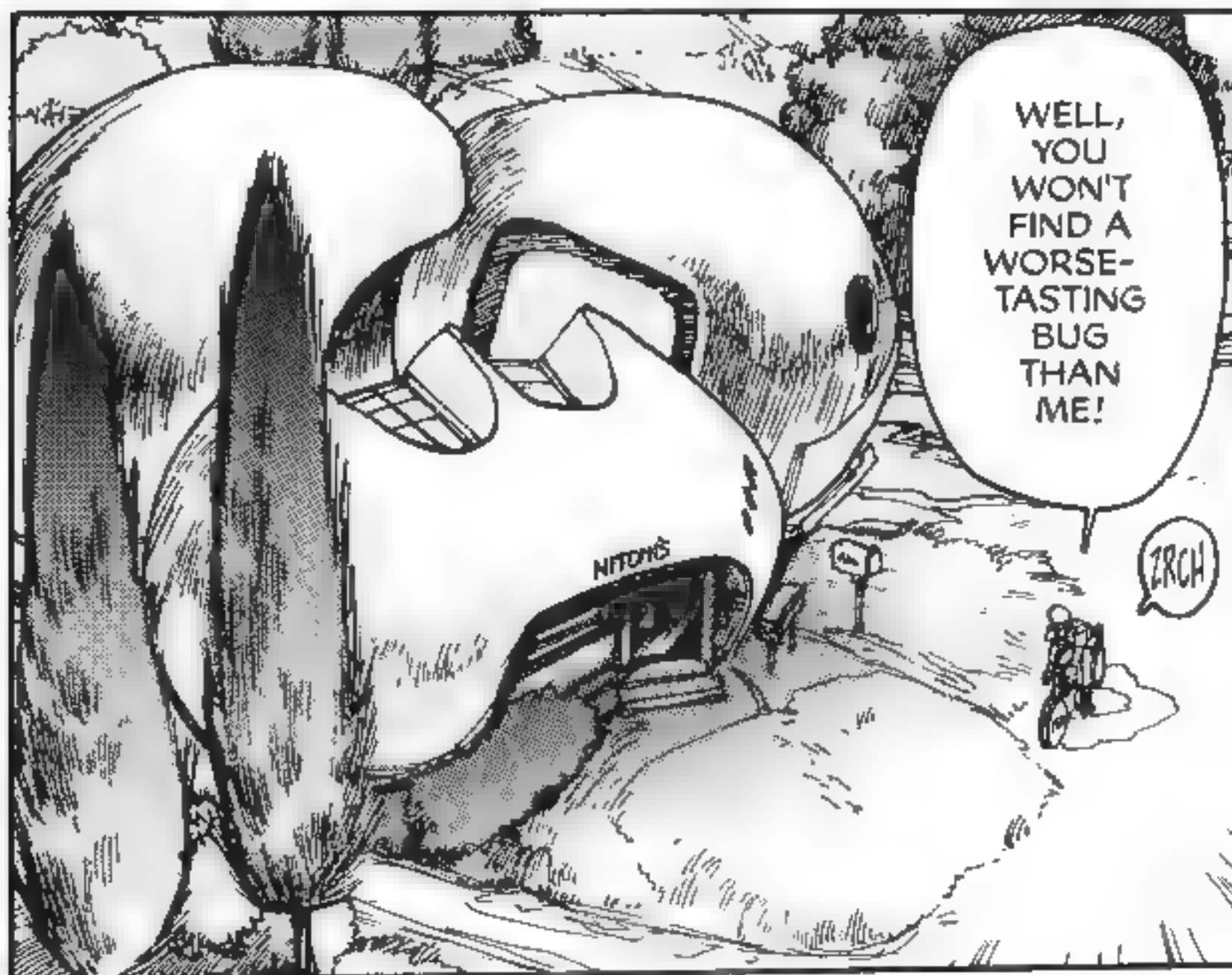
FOR THAT
YOU'VE GOT TO
THANK VEL--
er, ARUGESS.
NORMALLY, WE'D
HAVE BEEN UP ALL
NIGHT DOING
PAPERWORK, OR
EVEN LOCKED UP
IN AN FBI CELL,
AND IF IT FELL
OFF THERE...

HEH
HEH







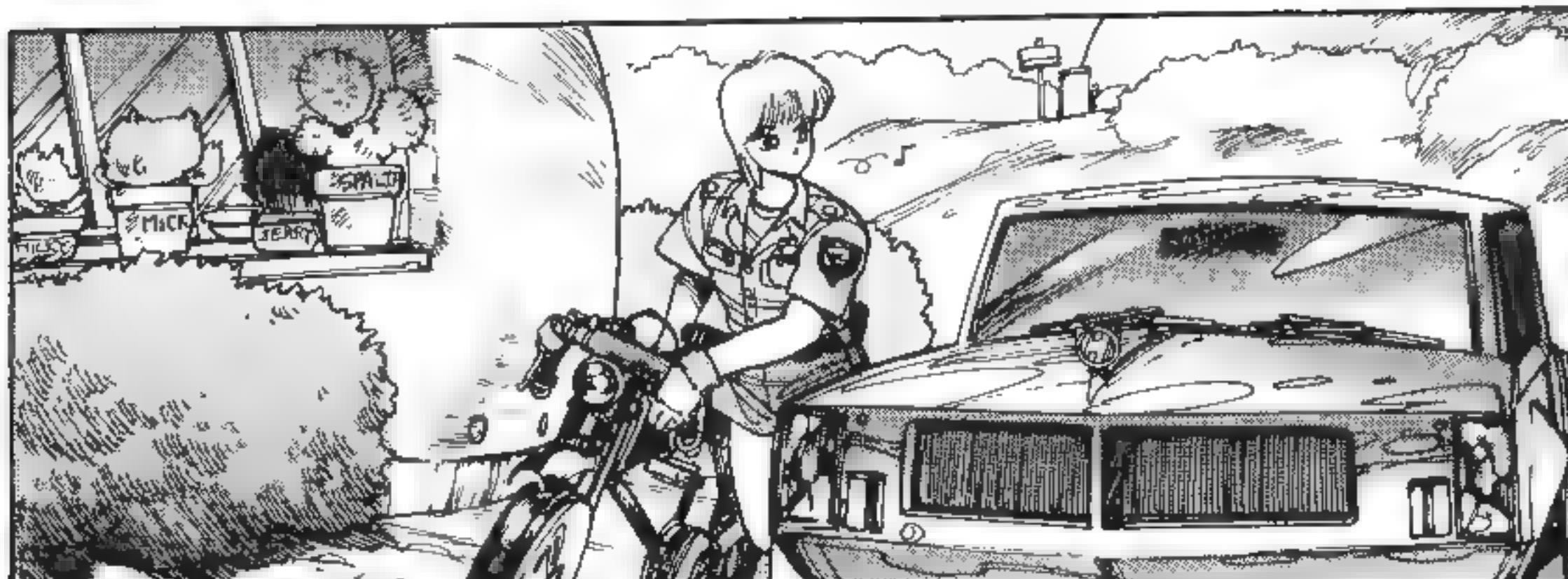


WELL,
YOU
WON'T
FIND A
WORSE-
TASTING
BUG
THAN
ME!

ZRCH

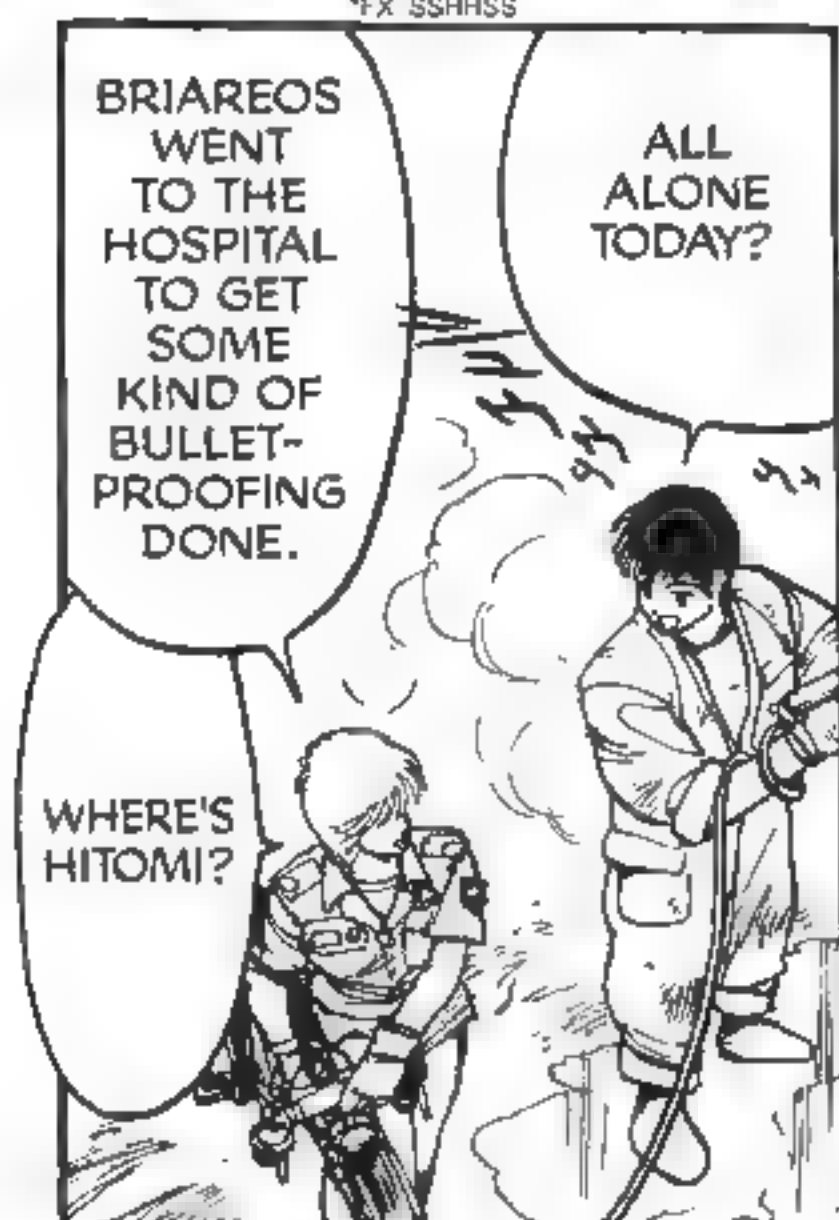
LOOKS
LIKE AN
INSECT-
EATING
MUSH-
ROOM.

SO
THIS IS
HITOMI'S
NEW
PLACE...
HMMM.



*FX SSSHSS

FX KOHAK



BRIAREOS
WENT
TO THE
HOSPITAL
TO GET
SOME
KIND OF
BULLET-
PROOFING
DONE.

ALL
ALONE
TODAY?

WHERE'S
HITOMI?

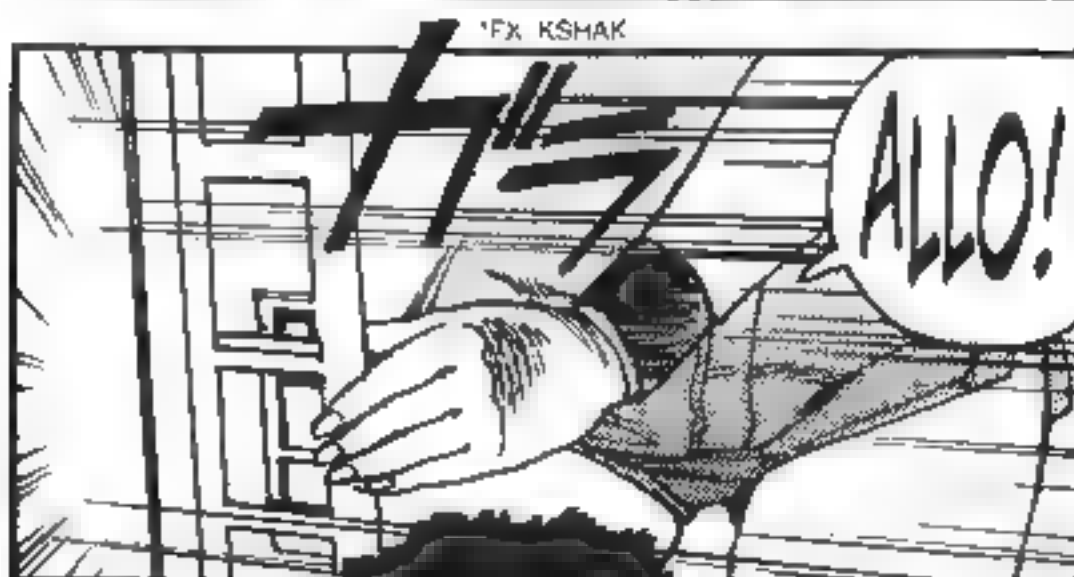


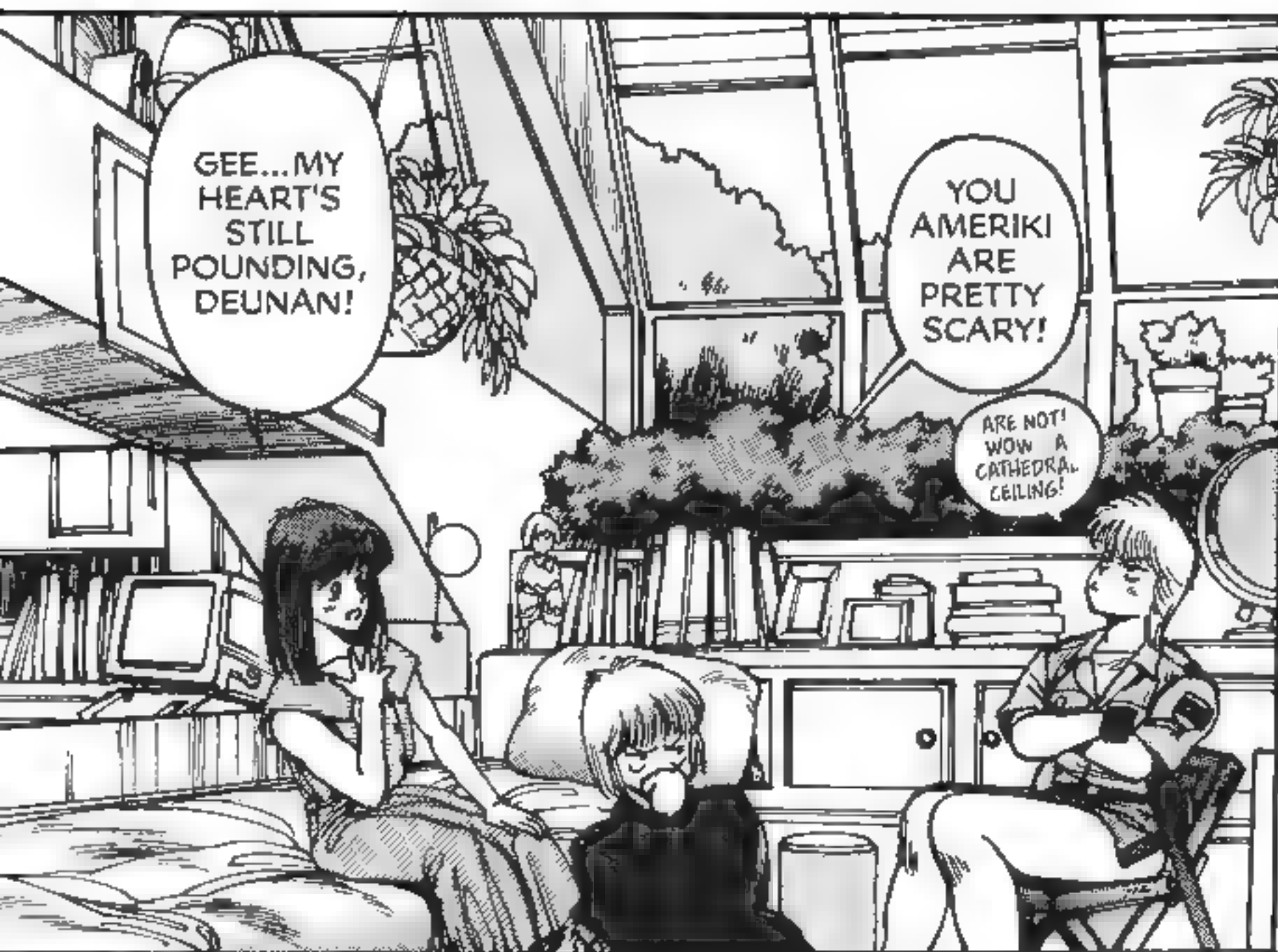
HEY,
DEUNAN!
GOOD
TO SEE
YOU!

HI!

*FX SSSHSSSS







GEE... MY
HEART'S
STILL
POUNDING,
DEUNAN!

YOU
AMERIKI
ARE
PRETTY
SCARY!

ARE NOT!
WOW A
CATHEDRAL
CEILING!

WELL,
GEE...

SHE WAS
POSITIVELY
LURKING
BY THE
DOOR, NOT
MAKING A
SOUND...



THIS CITY'S
SO PEACEFUL,
YOU'RE
BOUND TO
LET DOWN
YOUR GUARD
SOMETIMES.

DON'T
FEEL
BAD.

I'M
LUCKY
SHE
WAS A
POLICE
OFFI-
CER...

WOW...YOU
ORIGINALS
ARE SO
LUCKY!
YOU HEAL
SO FAST,
YOU CAN'T
SEE THE
REPAIR
MARKS...

THEY SAID IT'S THE
SAME TECHNOLOGY
THEY USE FOR LIFE
EXTENSIONS. THEY
DOCS KEPT TALKING
ABOUT SOUND
WAVES, VIBRATIONS,
HOW IMPORTANT
RHYTHM IS...IT WAS
LIKE THEY WERE
DISCUSSING
MUSIC.

I'M JUST
WEARING
THIS
FOR FUN.
WE'VE
GOT A
BRIEFING
AT FIVE.

HEH...

I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
THAT
UNI-
FORM
BEFORE.



AND
YOUR
CHEEK!
THE
SCARS
ARE ALL
GONE!





I'M MASHA GAVILOV THE THIRD. SHE'S MY BODYGUARD, MISS MERANPOUS. YOU MUST BE THE FAMOUS DEUNAN KNUTE...?

OH! SORRY, SORRY!

AREN'T YOU GOING TO INTRODUCE US?

AHEM!

FX KLAK



OF COURSE!

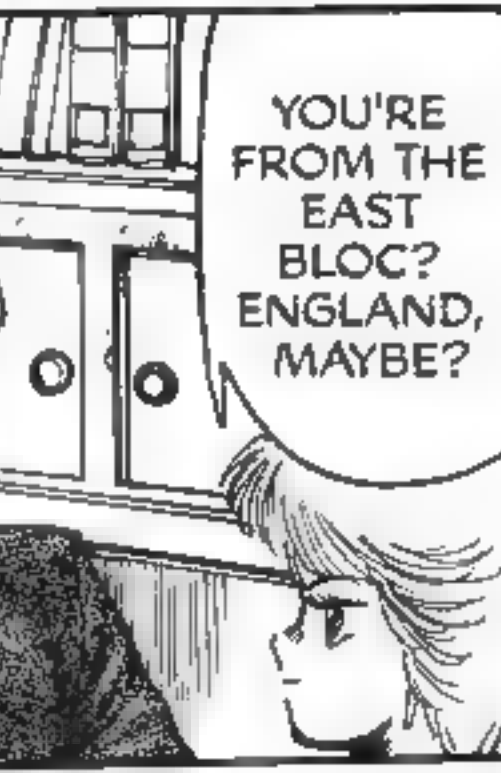
SO YOU'RE ASSERTING YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS?



SHE GOT STRANDED HERE DURING THE WAR, WHILE SHE WAS ON A WORLD TOUR. THAT'S WHEN SHE LEARNED OUR LANGUAGE.



NO...THE OUTSKIRTS OF MOSCOW!



YOU'RE FROM THE EAST BLOC? ENGLAND, MAYBE?



IT'S A U.S./AFRICAN BLACK SUPPORT GROUP FORMED RIGHT AFTER THE WAR. IN SOUTH AFRICA THEY CALL THEM "THE BLACK NAZIS," BUT THEY'RE NOT REALLY THAT KIND OF ORGANIZATION AT ALL.

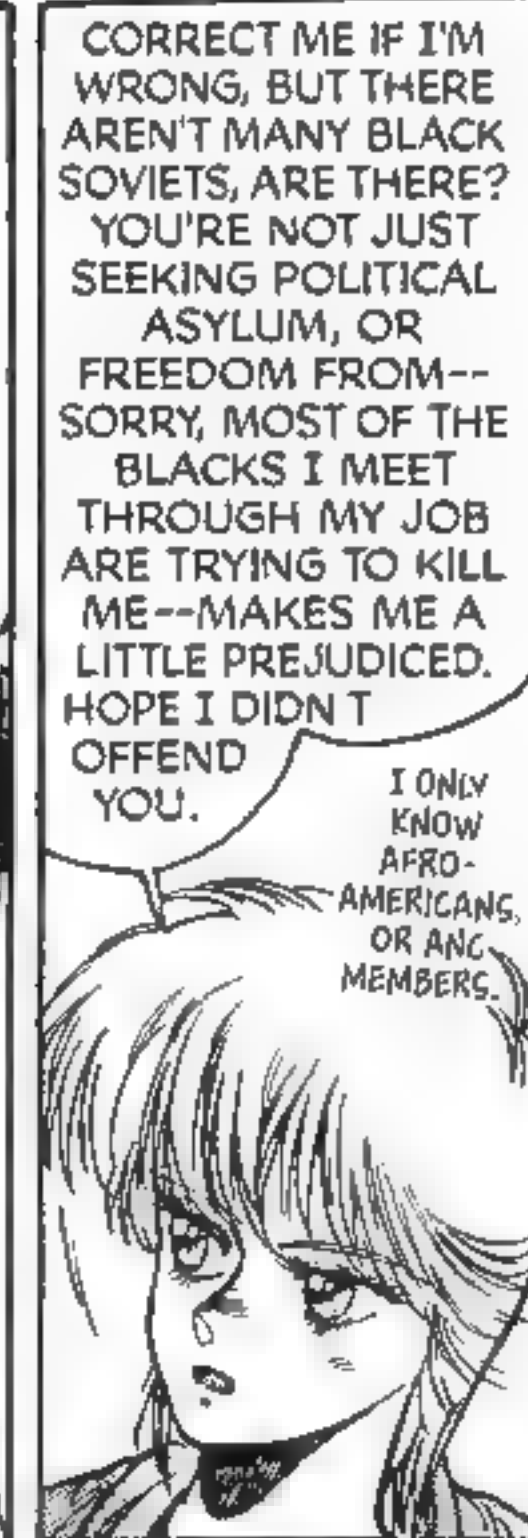
EUMENIDES...?

SHE'S FROM UPPER ZAIRE

CHAK

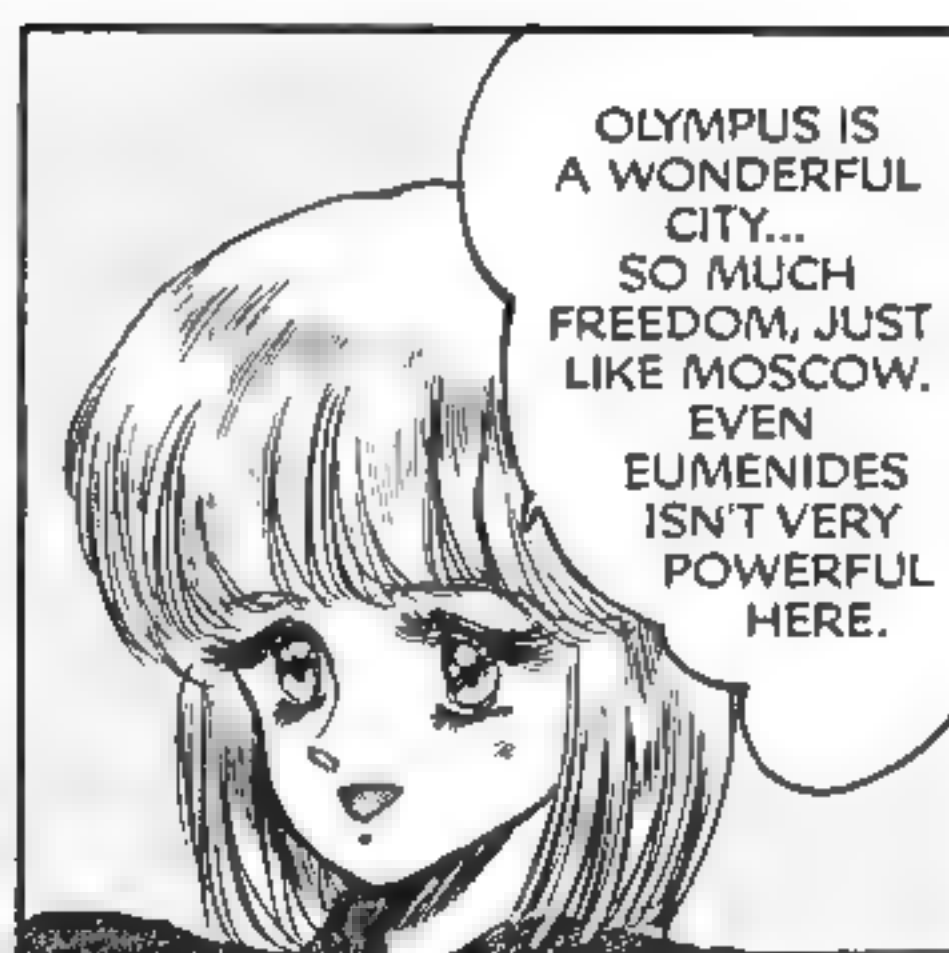


THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I WENT TO MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, I'VE HEARD IT ALL. BUT YOU'D BE SMART NOT TO TALK THAT WAY ON THE OUTSIDE--IF SOMEONE FROM EUMENIDES HEARD YOU...



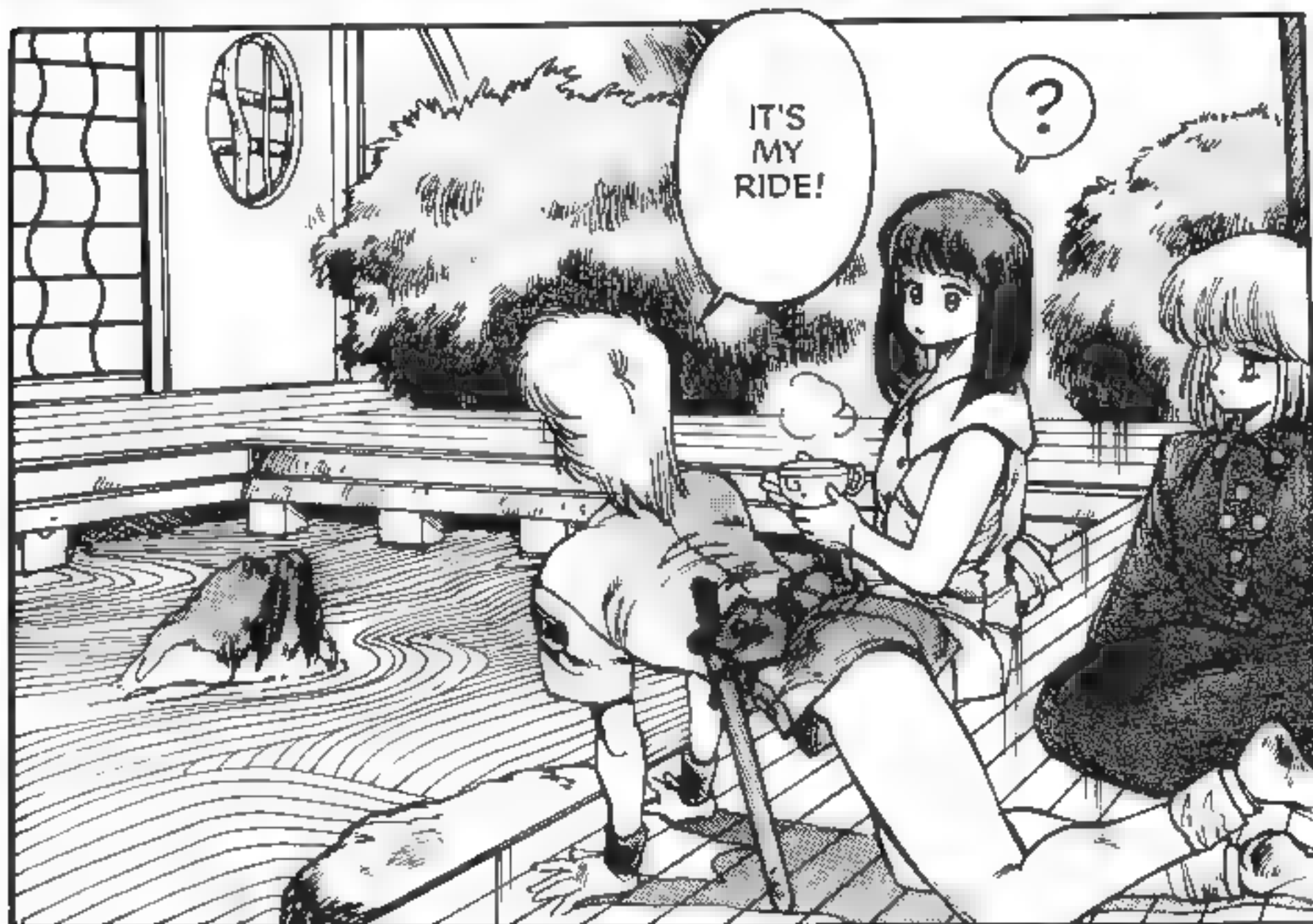
CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT THERE AREN'T MANY BLACK SOVIETS, ARE THERE? YOU'RE NOT JUST SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM, OR FREEDOM FROM-- SORRY, MOST OF THE BLACKS I MEET THROUGH MY JOB ARE TRYING TO KILL ME--MAKES ME A LITTLE PREJUDICED. HOPE I DIDN'T OFFEND YOU.

I ONLY KNOW AFRO-AMERICANS, OR ANC MEMBERS.

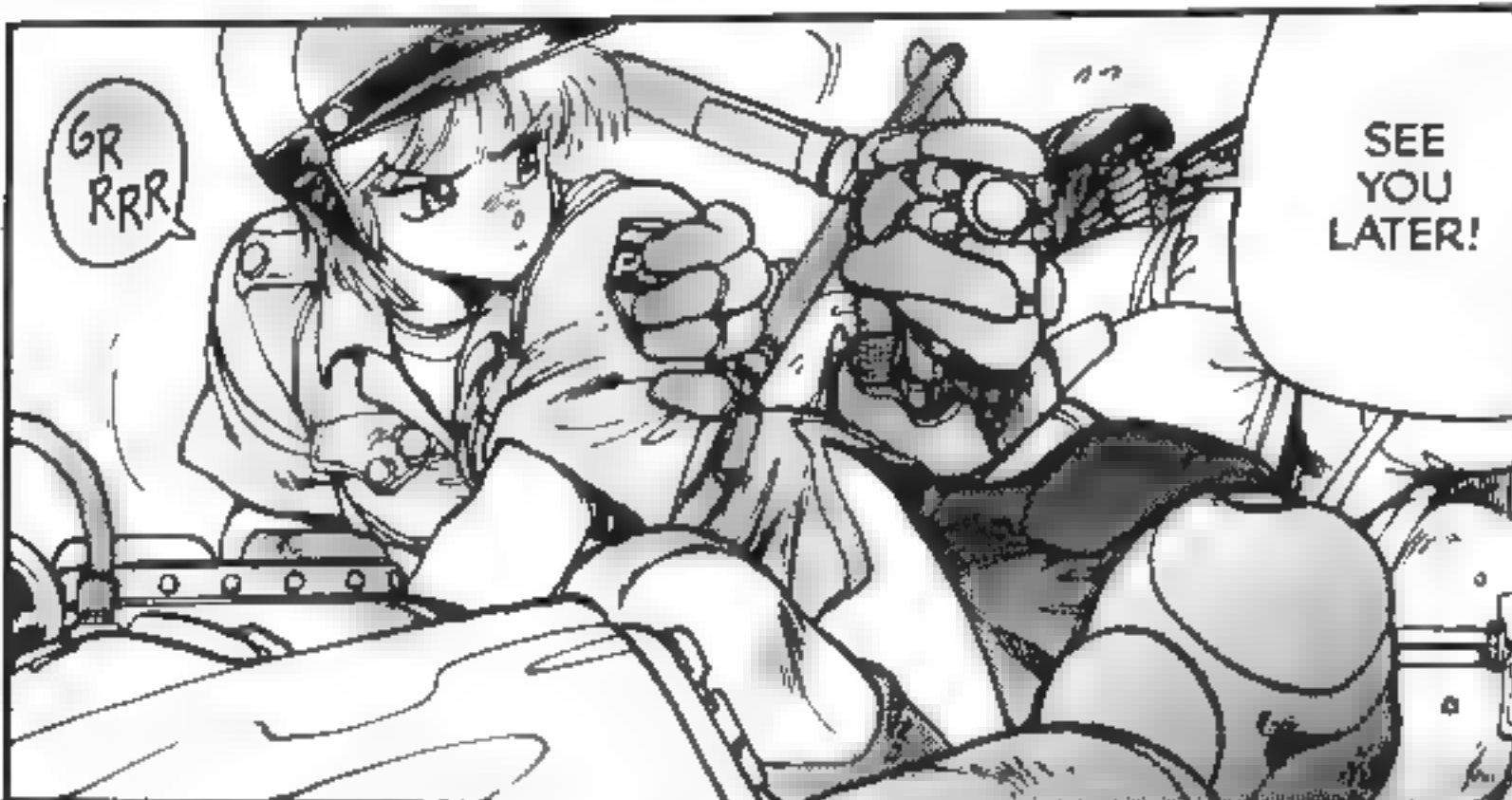
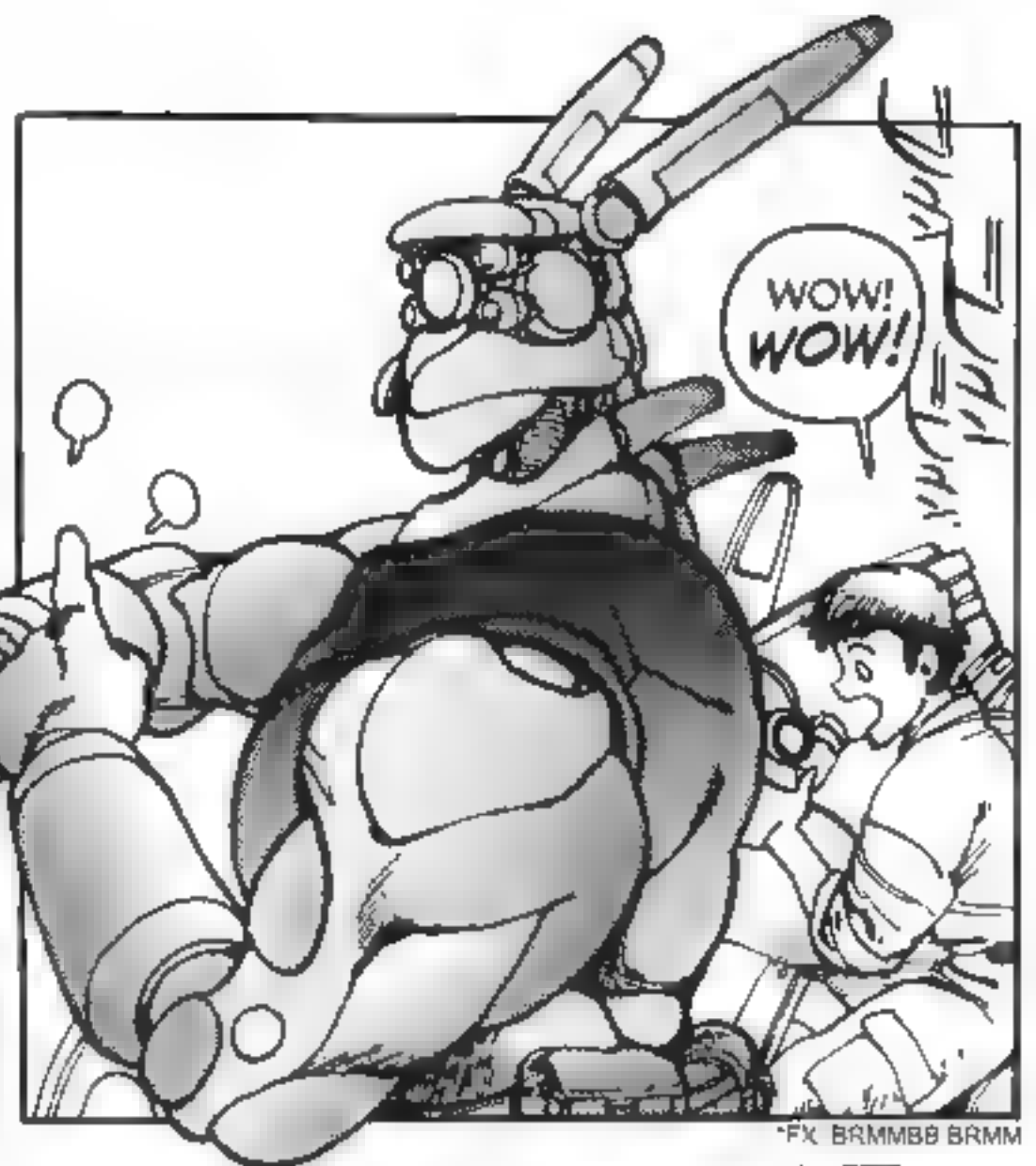


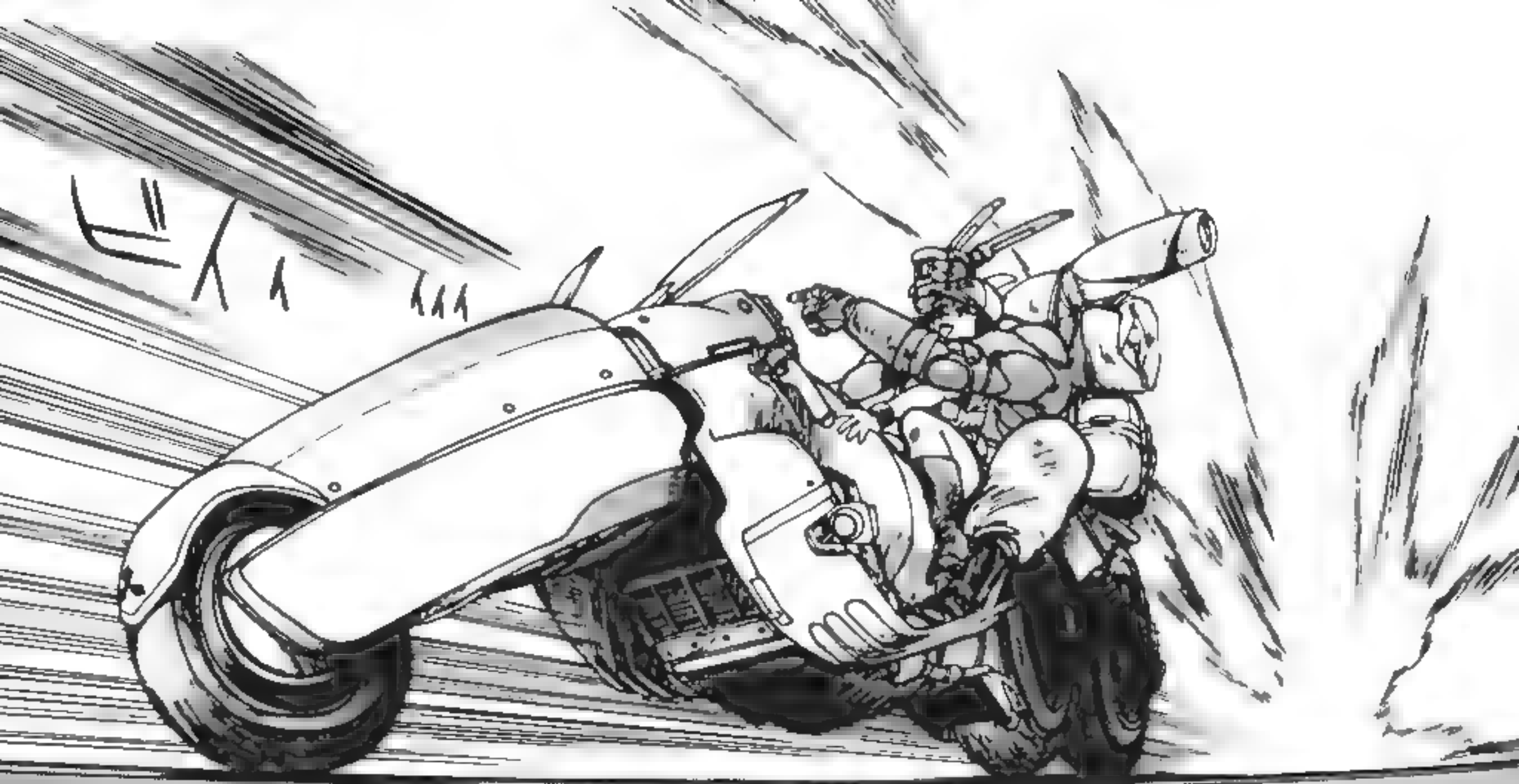
De gustibus non est disputandum.









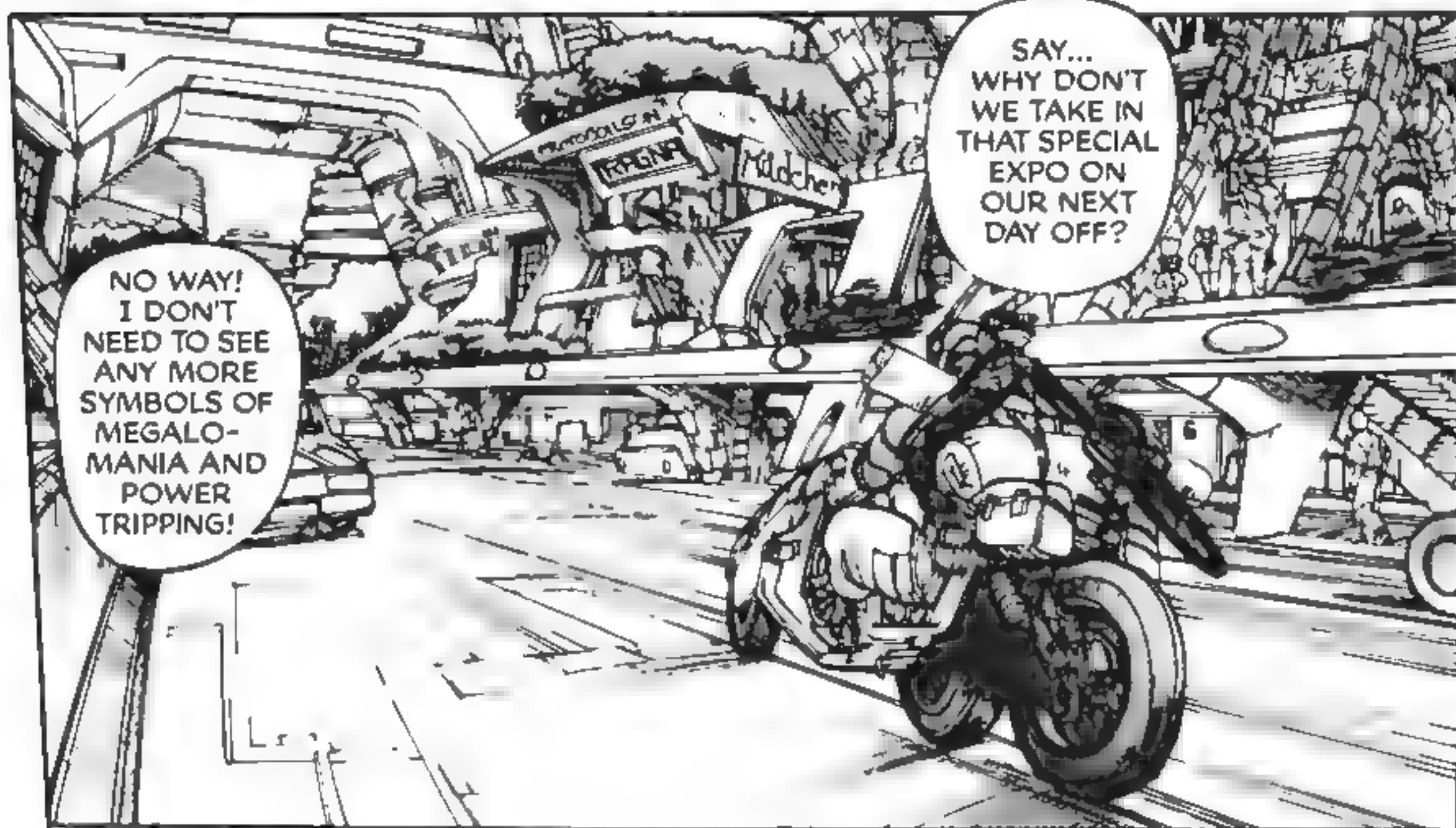


FX BHHHSSN

HEE, HEE,
HEE...
YOU LIKE
'EM?

NOT
AS
GOOD
AS YOUR
LEGS!

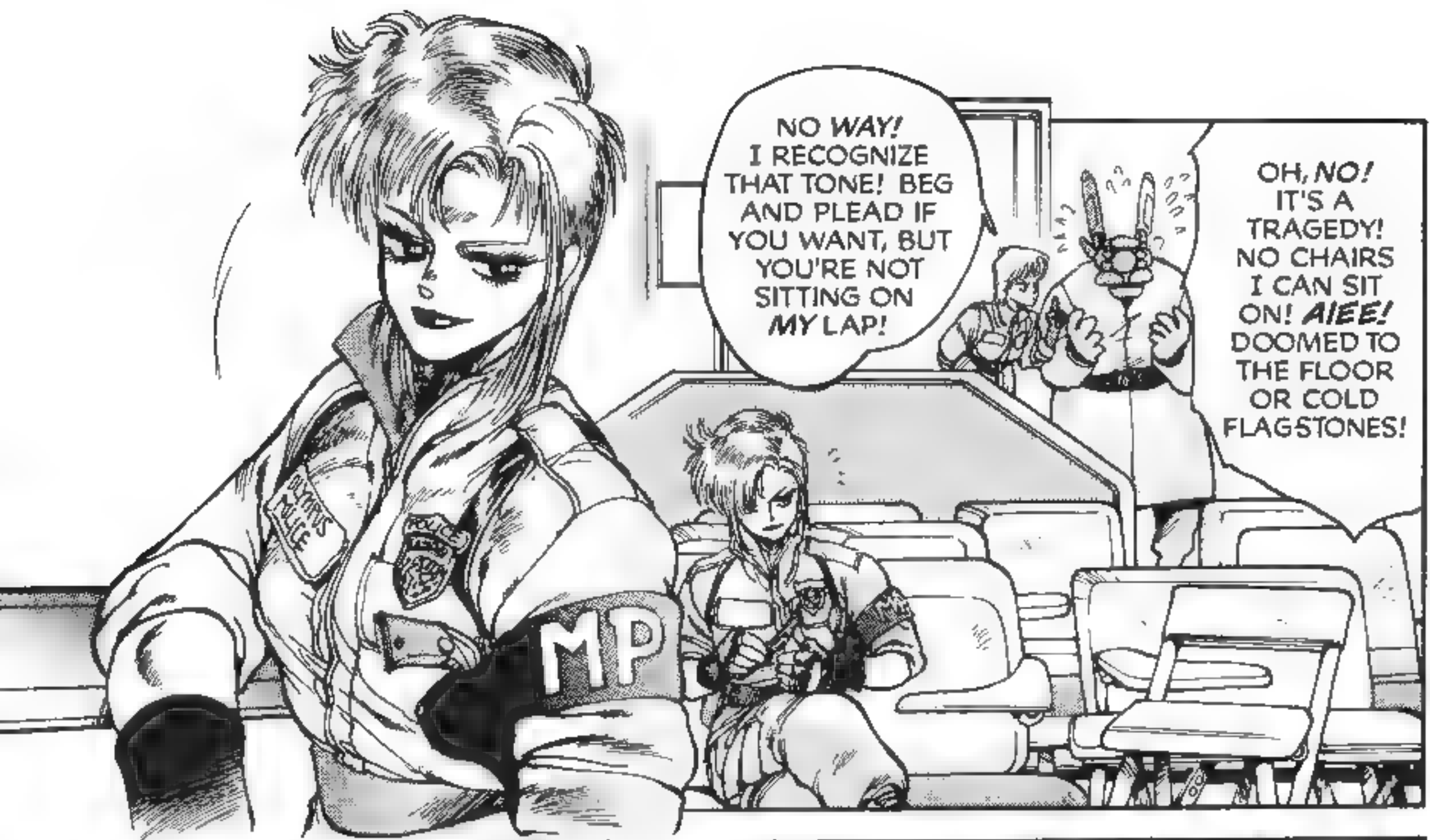
THAT
COLOR
LOOKS
GOOD ON
YOU!



NO WAY!
I DON'T
NEED TO SEE
ANY MORE
SYMBOLS OF
MEGALO-
MANIA AND
POWER
TRIPPING!

SAY...
WHY DON'T
WE TAKE IN
THAT SPECIAL
EXPO ON
OUR NEXT
DAY OFF?



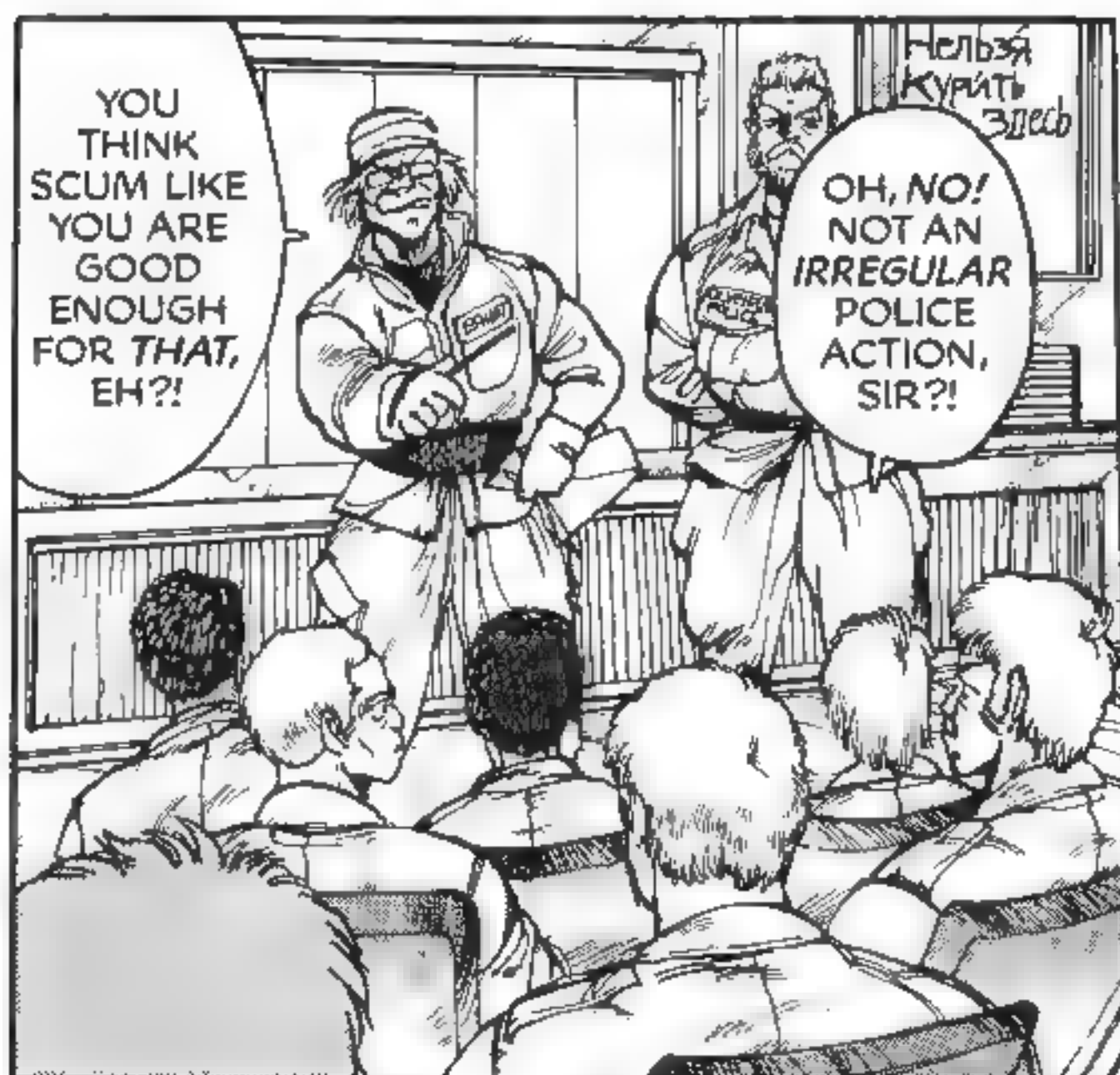


*FX TLNK





*FX TAK TAK TAK TAK





BUT UNDER MY ORGANIZATION, USING MY TACTICS, YOU CAN PULL OFF ANY OPERATION IN THE WORLD!

LANCE!

INDIVIDUALLY, YOU'RE USELESS-- JUST A BUNCH OF LOUSY COPS.

I'M THE ONE WHO PICKED YOU SORRY LOT OF JACKASSES OUT OF ALL THE SQUADS IN ESWAT.

*FX. TAK TAK TAK TAK



GIVE IT UP! HALF OF 'EM ARE LESBIANS!

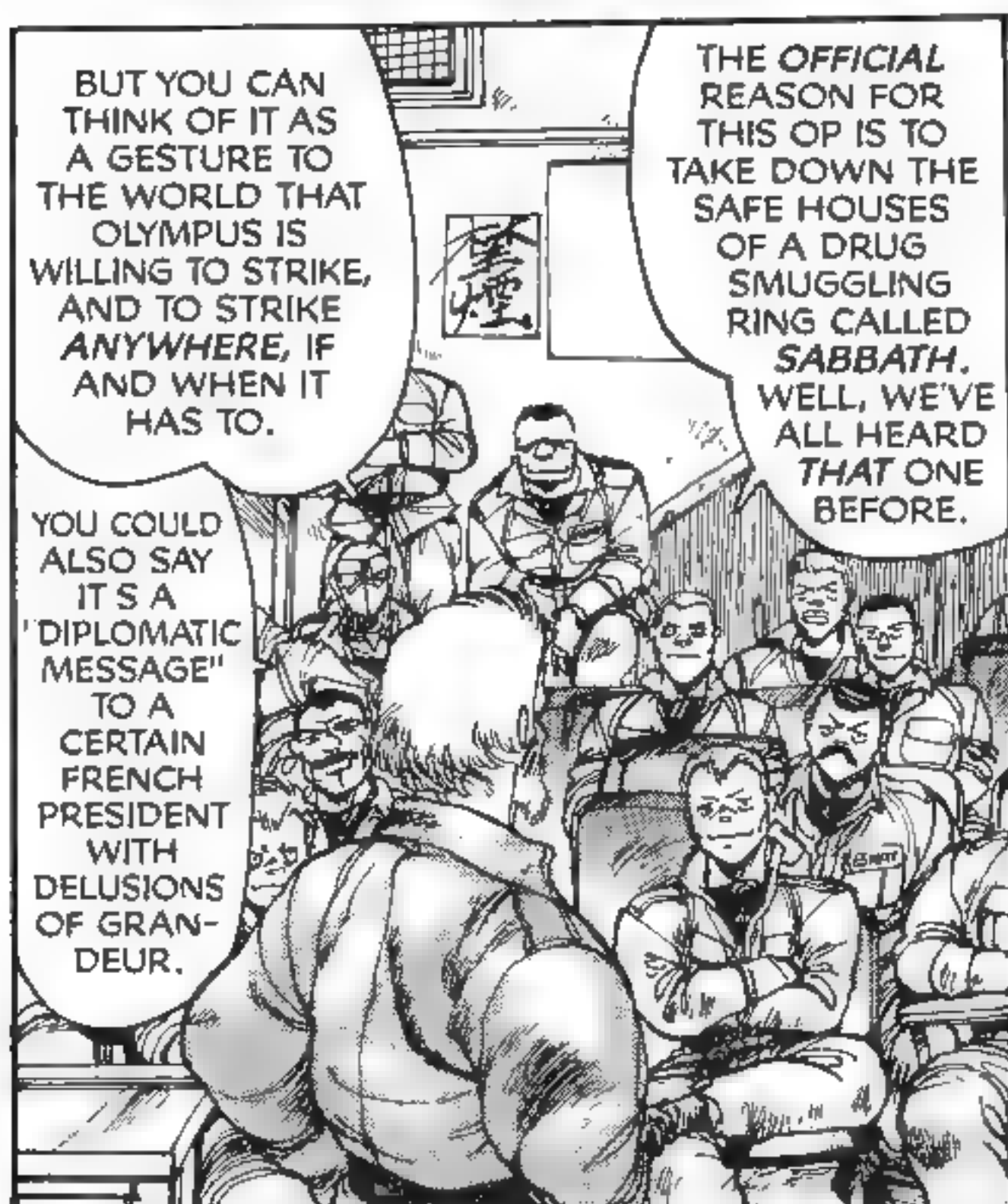
NO SHIT? WELL, HALF AREN'T!

ALL RIGHT! I REALLY GO FOR THOSE FRENCH BABES!



WHEN THE ORDER COMES, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE TEN MINUTES TO CATCH YOUR PLANE TO FRANCE.

WE'VE GOT A WEEK BEFORE THE OP. USE IT TO BUILD YOURSELVES INTO A TEAM.



BUT YOU CAN THINK OF IT AS A GESTURE TO THE WORLD THAT OLYMPUS IS WILLING TO STRIKE, AND TO STRIKE ANYWHERE, IF AND WHEN IT HAS TO.

YOU COULD ALSO SAY IT'S A 'DIPLOMATIC MESSAGE' TO A CERTAIN FRENCH PRESIDENT WITH DELUSIONS OF GRAND-DEUR.

THE OFFICIAL REASON FOR THIS OP IS TO TAKE DOWN THE SAFE HOUSES OF A DRUG SMUGGLING RING CALLED **SABBATH**. WELL, WE'VE ALL HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE.

RIGHT NOW, OLYMPUS HAS ABOUT EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE LAST NUKES UNDER LOCK AND KEY...BUT FRANCE IS ONE OF THE EXCEPTIONS.

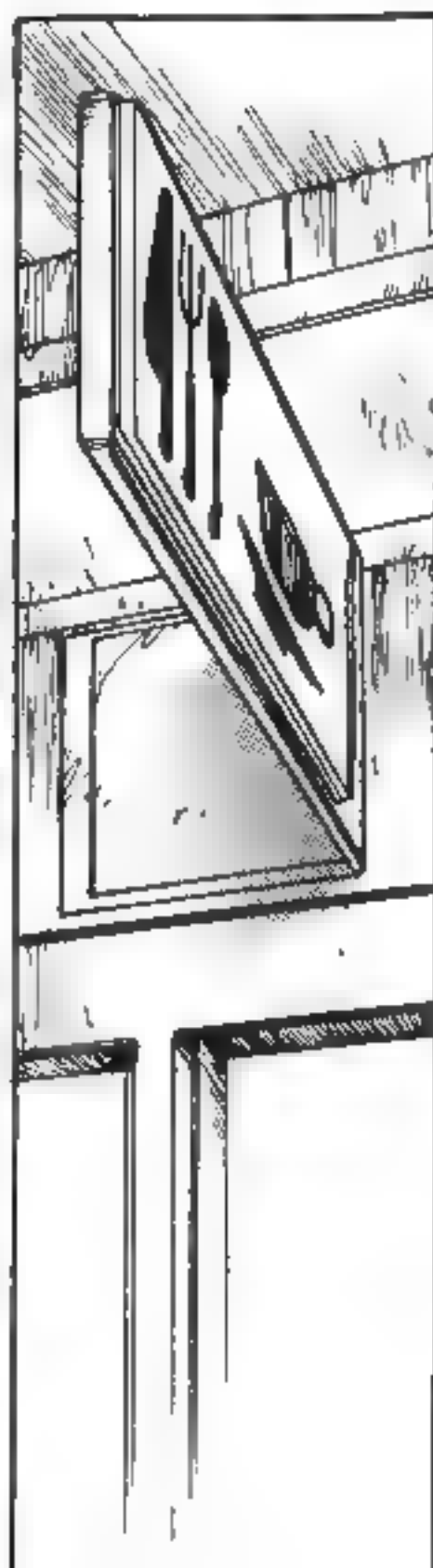
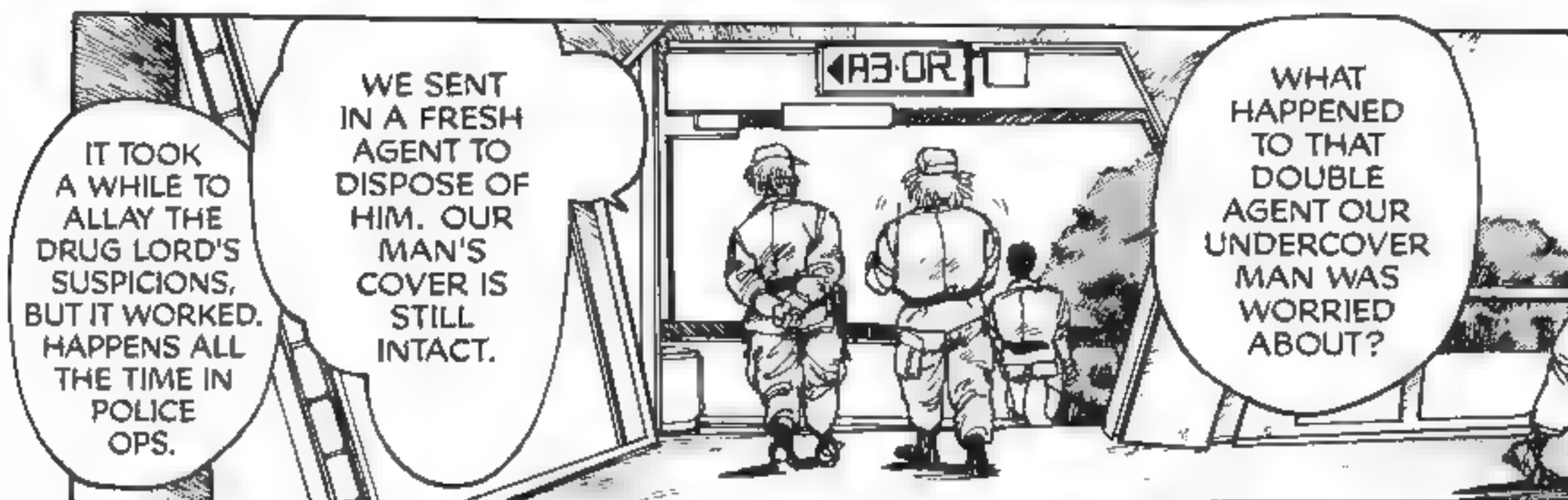
FORTUNATELY, BACK IN THE LAST WAR NONE OF THE NUCLEAR POWERS STEPPED ON EACH OTHER'S TOES. THOSE NASTY LITTLE FIRE-CRACKERS ARE STILL DECAYING ON THE SHELVES, BUT THERE'S FEWER ALL THE TIME.

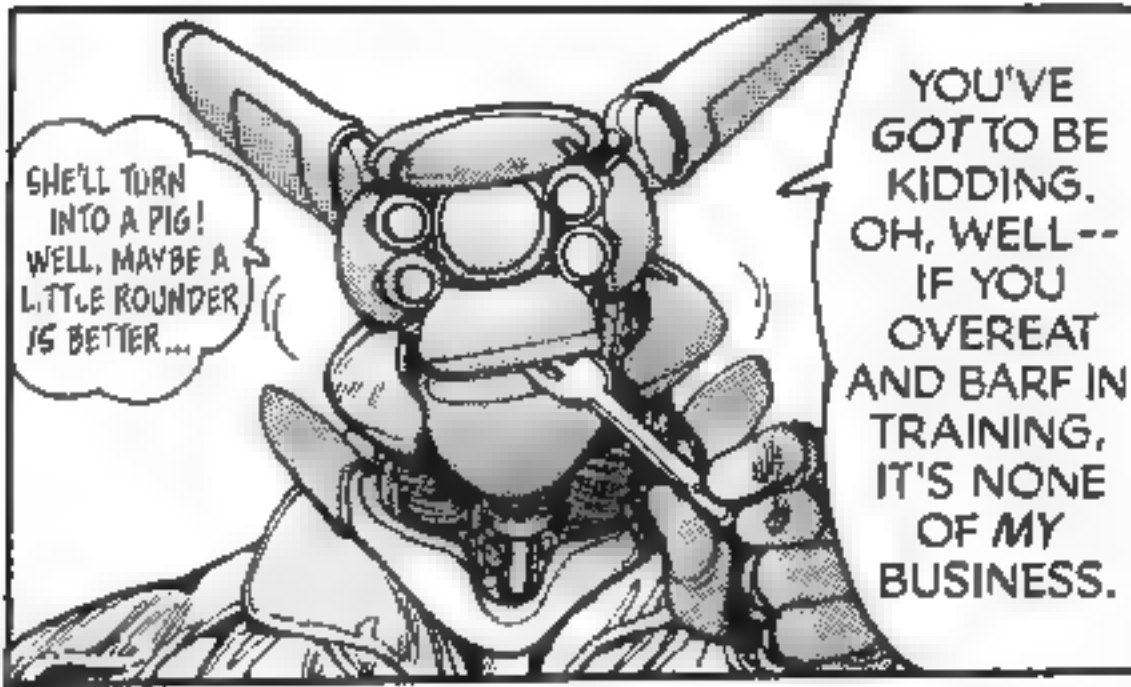


*Sabbath. the day of rest in Judaism (from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday). That's not what it means here



*Taken from an ancient Eastern European legend. The name of those whose spirits set forth at the turn of the season to battle those who walk the path of evil. There is a bumper harvest when the benandanti win, and famine if they lose

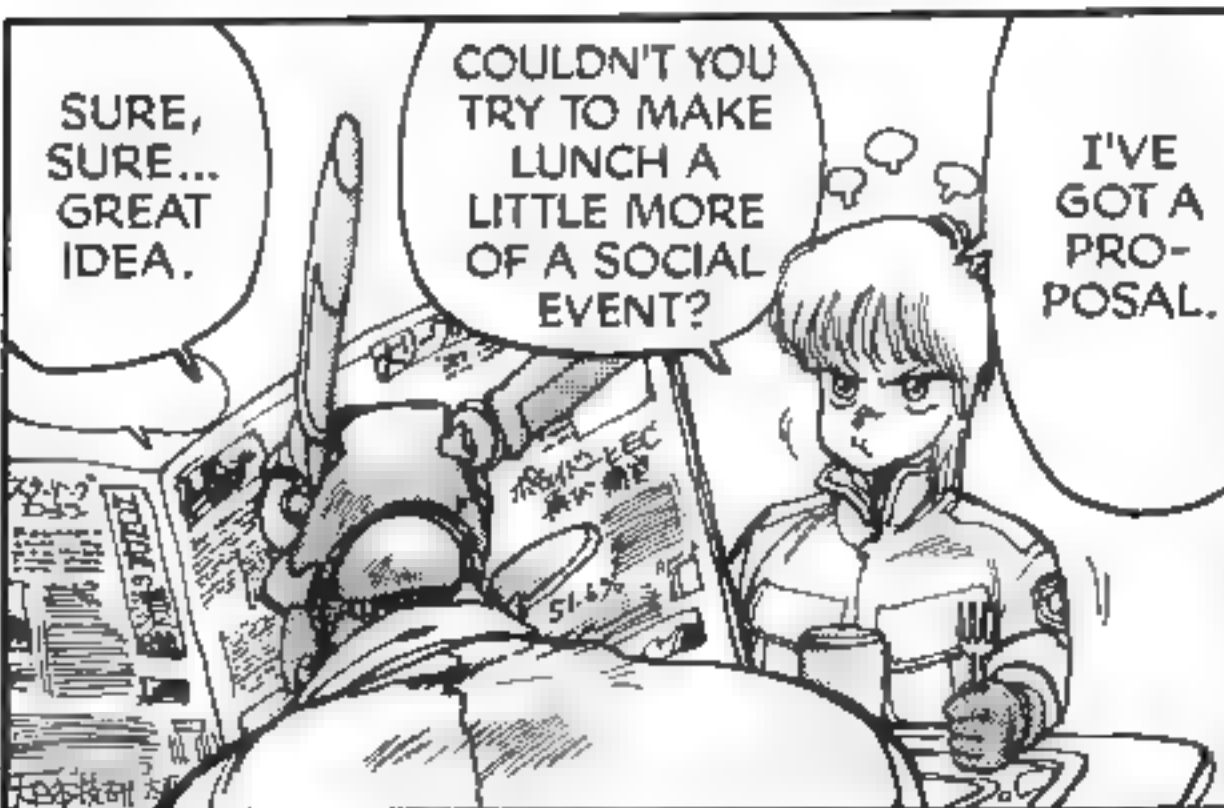




YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING. OH, WELL-- IF YOU OVEREAT AND BARF IN TRAINING, IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.



AW, C'MON... ALL WE'RE GOING TO DO IS WORK OUT TIMING.



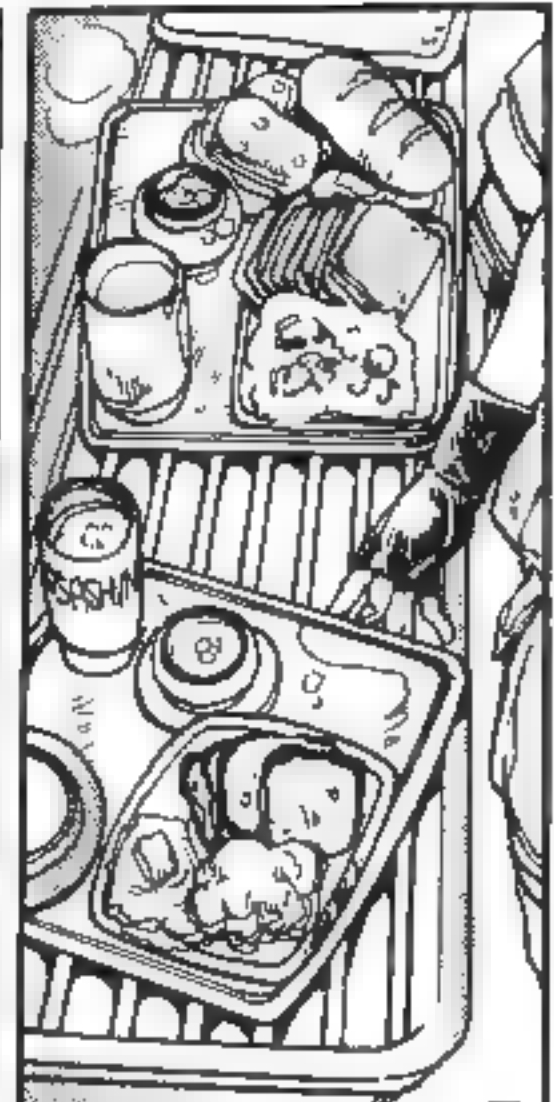
COULDN'T YOU TRY TO MAKE LUNCH A LITTLE MORE OF A SOCIAL EVENT?

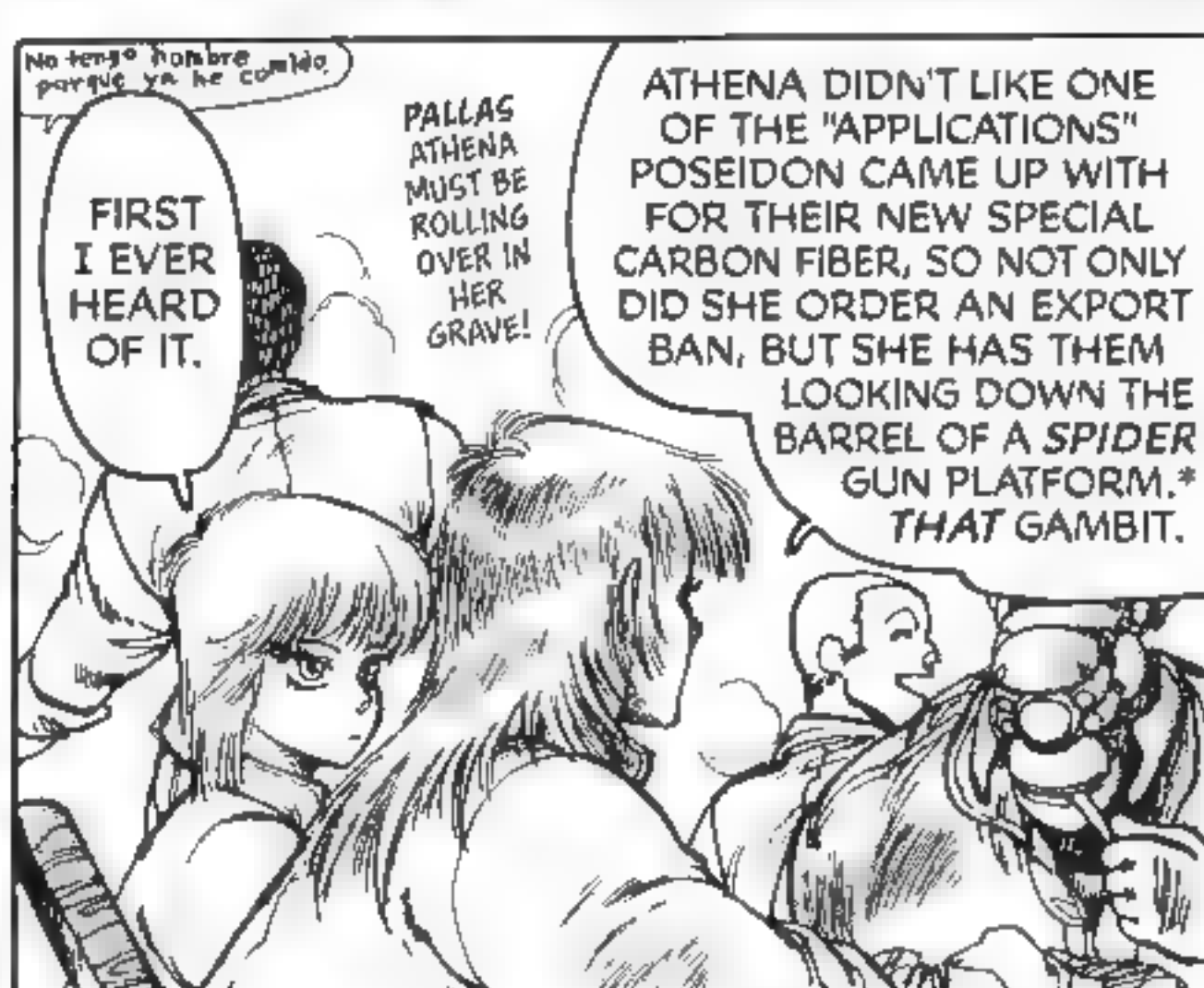
I'VE GOT A PROPOSAL.



BACK TO THE CIVIL WAR I GUESS.

HMMM...CUBA'S ALLIED THEMSELVES WITH THE FEDERATES U.S.S.R. AGAIN. THEIR NAVY'S GONE AND SHELLED THE IMPERIAL AMERICANA CAPITAL IN AUSTIN, TEXAS.

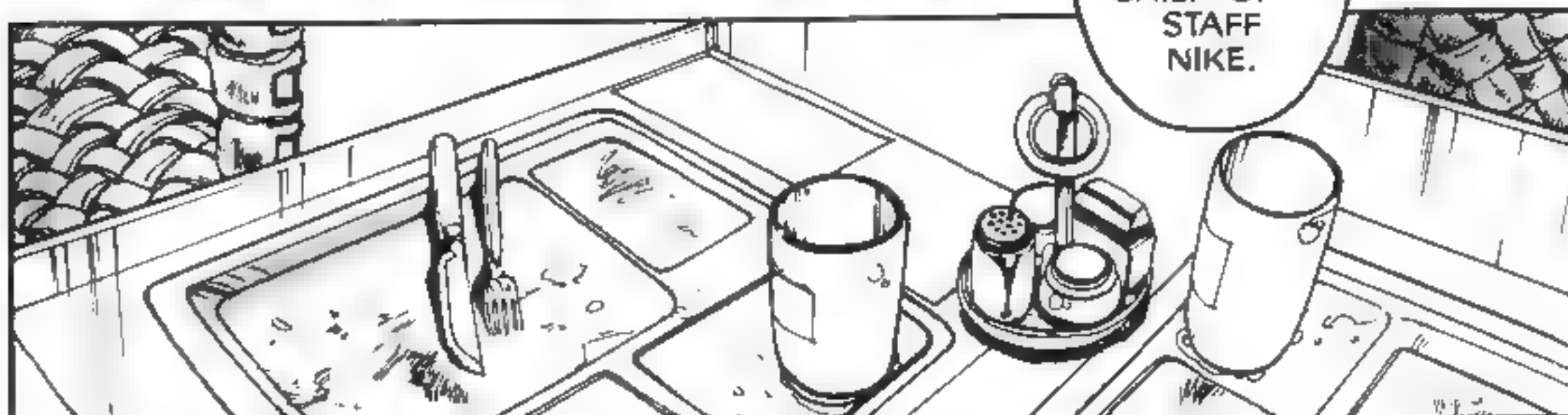
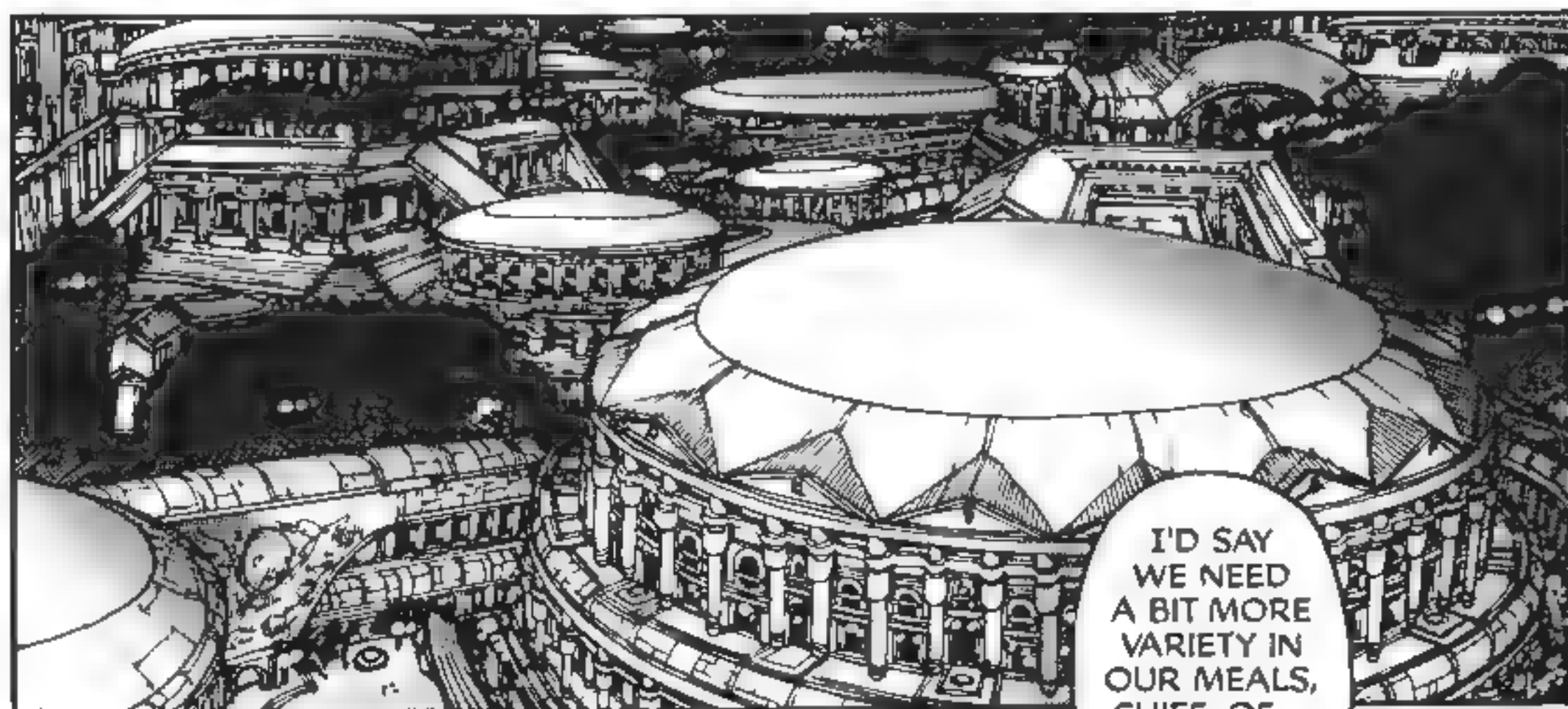




*More about this later



Note: Perhaps "Poseidon" is a corruption of the Japanese for "made in Japan" - "Nippon seihin"

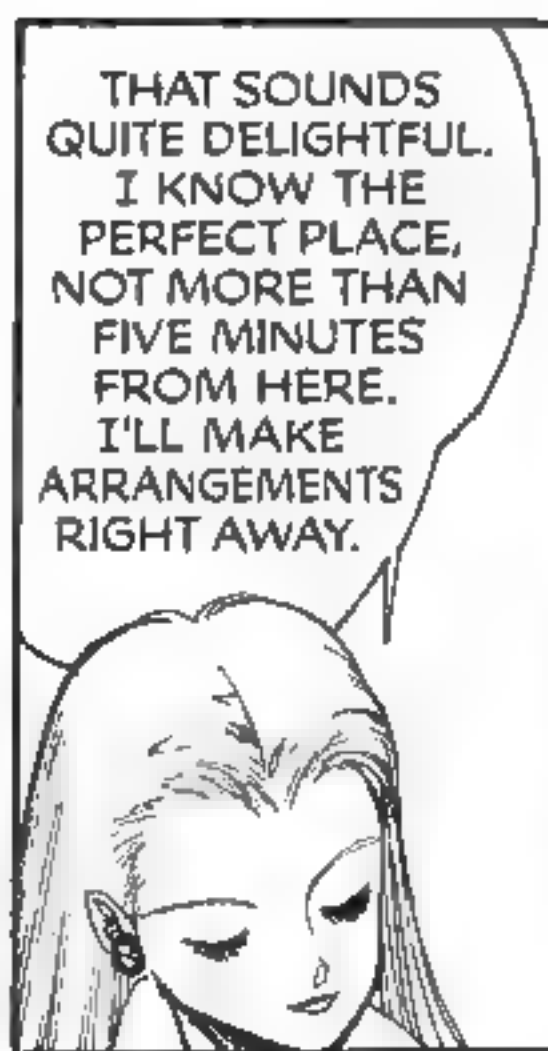


*Organization for African Unity, headquartered in Addis Ababa Ethiopia



I HAVE A QUESTION, MAY I...?

ATHENA...



THAT SOUNDS QUITE DELIGHTFUL. I KNOW THE PERFECT PLACE, NOT MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES FROM HERE. I'LL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS RIGHT AWAY.

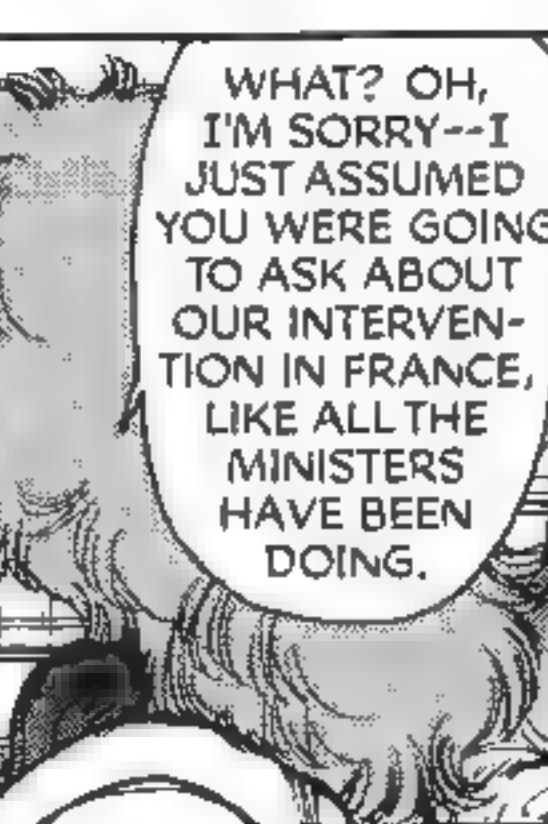


JUST NOW AND THEN, ANYWAY. WHAT DO YOU THINK? WANT TO TRY OUT A NICE LITTLE THREE-STAR ITALIAN RESTAURANT FOR LUNCH NEXT SATURDAY?



NO BIG REASON. AFTER I'D LOOKED AT THE PROBLEM FROM BOTH SIDES, I FOUND I'D SWITCHED OVER TO THE OTHER CAMP.

WHY DID I STOP PLAYING THE MARTYR? AND STOP BEING A DETERMINIST?



WHAT? OH, I'M SORRY--I JUST ASSUMED YOU WERE GOING TO ASK ABOUT OUR INTERVENTION IN FRANCE, LIKE ALL THE MINISTERS HAVE BEEN DOING.



WHY DID YOU DO IT, WHEN YOU WERE BOUND BY ALL THOSE INVISIBLE CHAINS--YOUR DUTIES?



BIOROIDS AND HUMANS ARE STILL PAWNS. THAT HASN'T CHANGED, BUT AT LEAST THIS SHOWS THAT WE ARE NOT ENTIRELY PUPPETS ON A STRING. THE OLYMPUS PLAN CAN BE SEEN AS A SORT OF THEATRICAL GAME, BUILT AROUND INSPIRED AD-LIBBING.



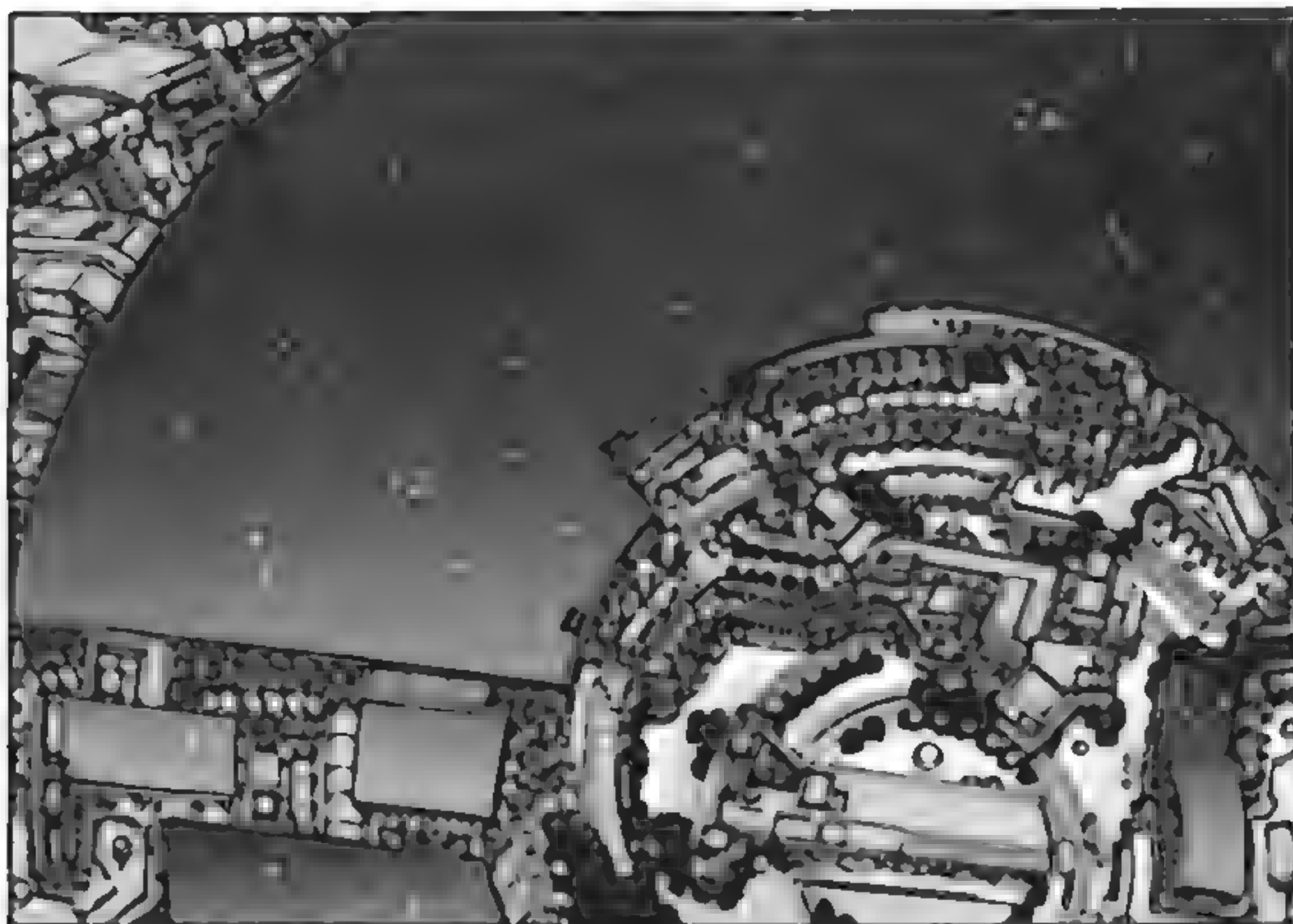
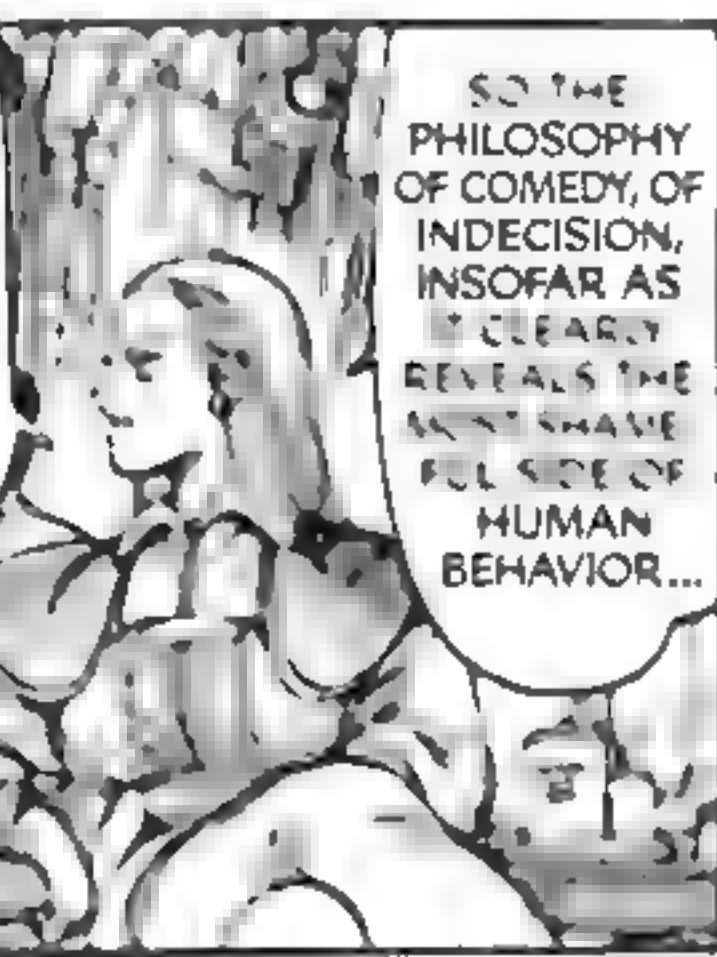
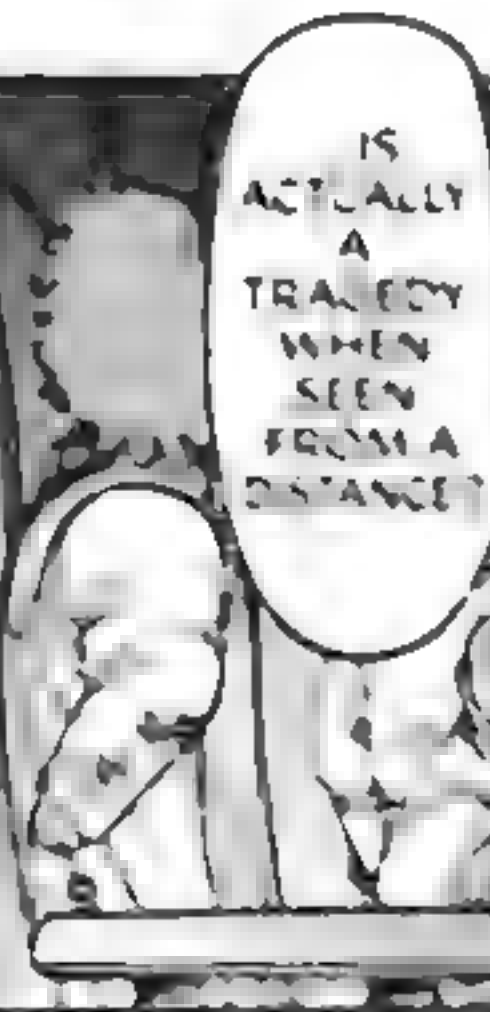
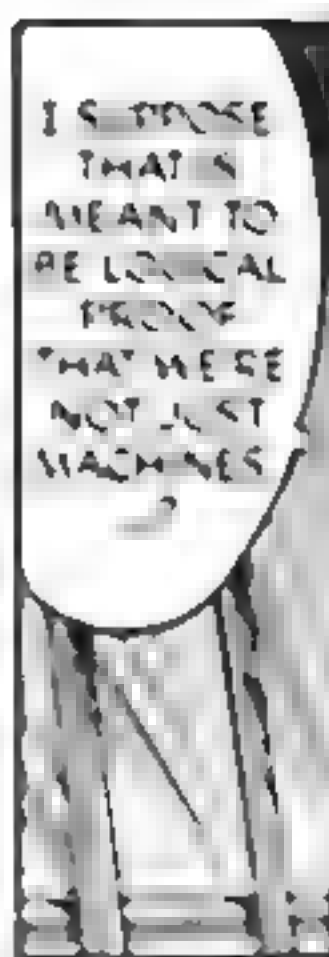
WHEN GAIA FINALLY REACHED HER LIMITS AND HAD TO BE SUPPRESSED, SHE PRINTED OUT THE PROGRAM THAT HAD ALWAYS BEEN INTENDED TO APPEAR WHEN THAT HAPPENED. IT WASN'T HER OWN IDEA.

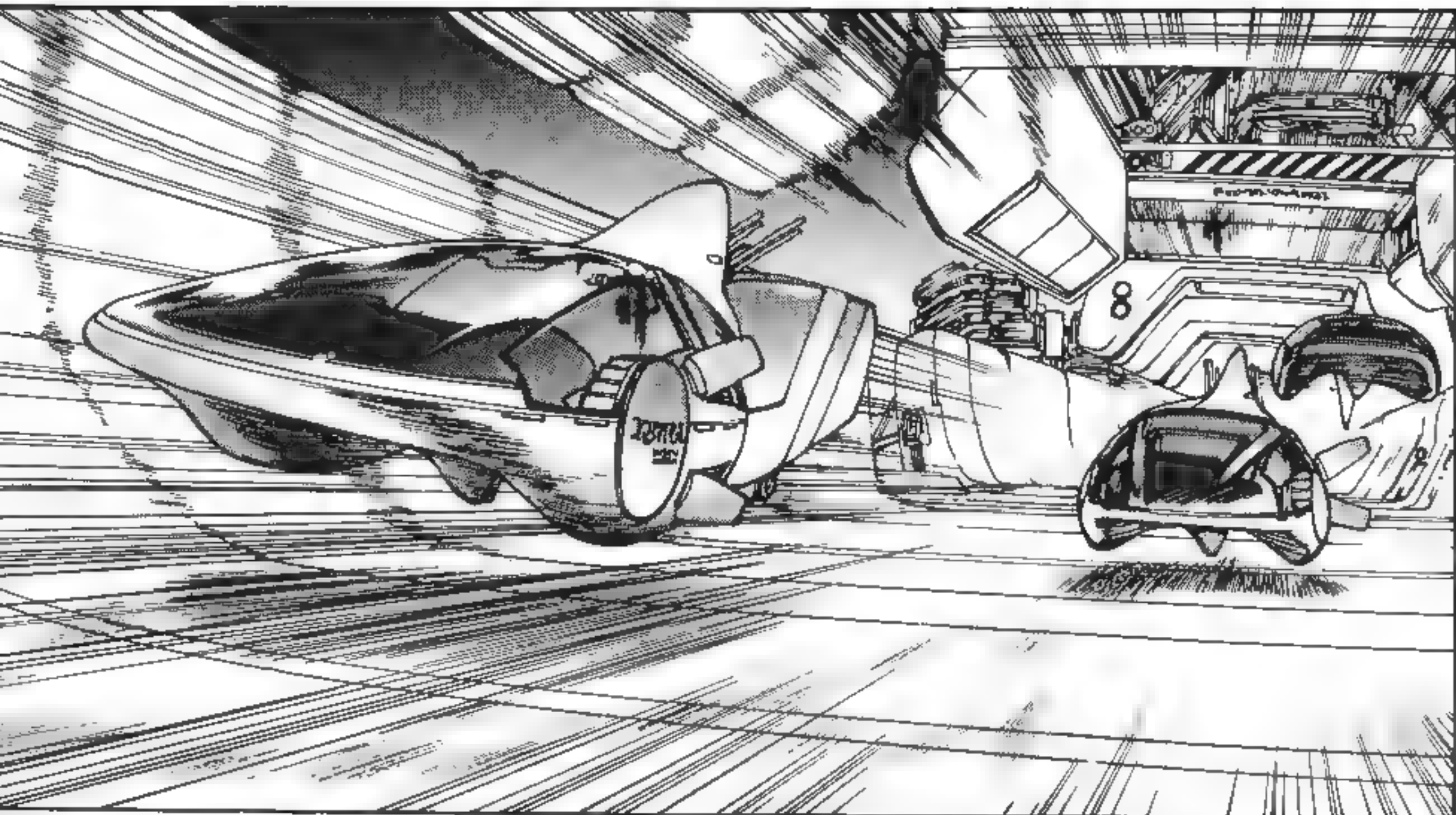


THOUGH OF COURSE, TO US BIOROIDS, HUMANS ARE THE ONLY REAL GODS.

I IMAGINE IF THE GREEK GODS WE TAKE OUR NAMES FROM SAW THE FREEDOM WE'VE GAINED FROM TECHNOLOGY--THE NEW PROMETHEUS--THEY'D HAVE QUITE A LAUGH.

I'D LIKE TO MAKE A RESERVATION. YES, I'LL HOLD





ISN'T THIS GREAT? THEY USE THIS *HERMES* MATERIAL TO FLOAT THE SPIDERS, TOO. IT WAS A DREAM OF MANKIND FOR YEARS AND YEARS TO MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE IT WAS FINALLY INVENTED. WITHOUT HERMES, AIRCARS LIKE THIS WOULD COST A FORTUNE.

HEE
HEE

IT WAS WORTH LIVING LONGER AFTER ALL!



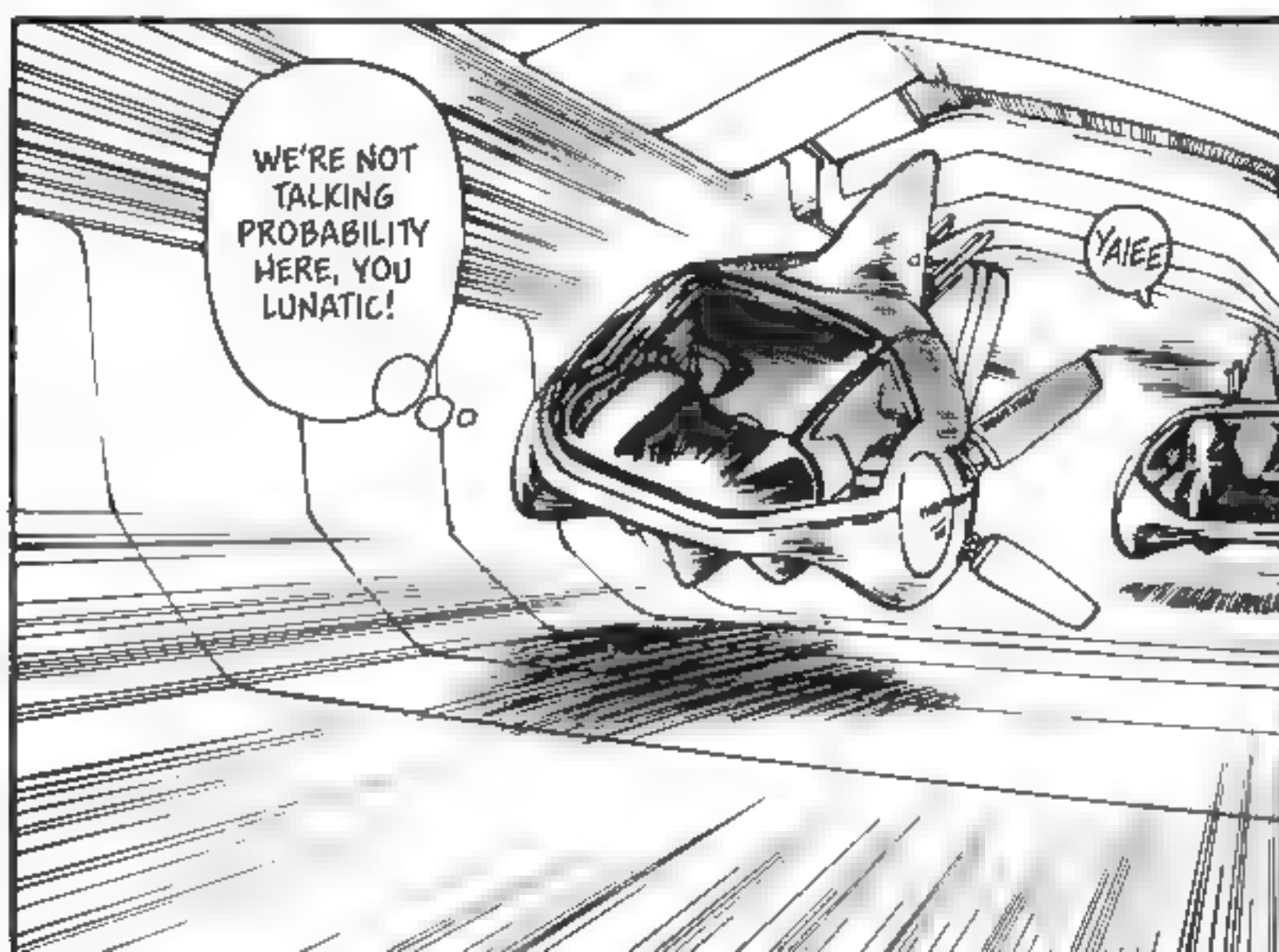
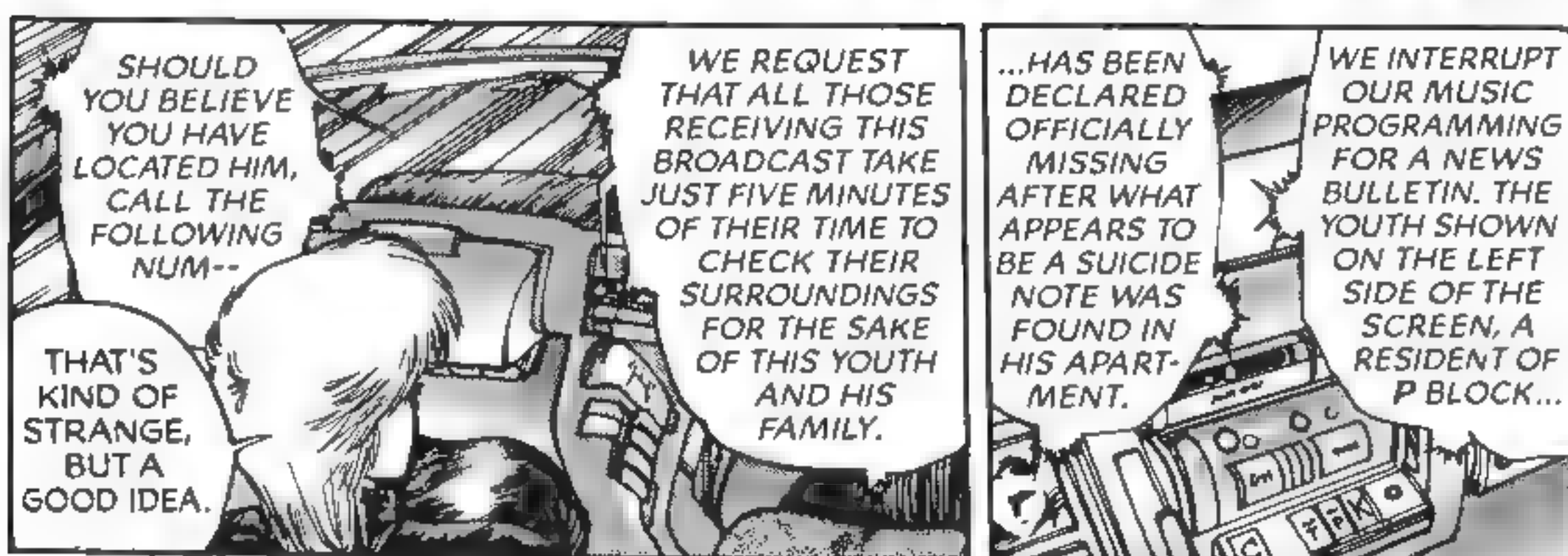
YOU'RE SUCH A SCHOLAR, DEUNAN!

WELL, I'VE BEEN HEARING NAMES LIKE THAT EVER SINCE I GOT HERE, SO I'VE BEEN STUDYING A BIT.

WASN'T HERMES THE NAME OF THE GOD WHO WAS SUCH A FAST RUNNER? YOU KNOW, FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY?

THEY SAY THEY CAN USE IT TO LINK HOSPITALS--ALMOST INSTANT TRANSPORTATION OF TRANSPLANT ORGANS! OR TO MOVE SUPER-HEAVY LOADS, EVEN IF THEY CAN'T GET THEM COMPLETELY OFF THE GROUND.







*FX BEEEEP



*Masculinization in a woman brought on by excessive male hormones



AND
HERE I
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
THE
EFFORT-
LESS
HEROINE.

YOU
LOOK
ABSO-
LUTELY
EX-
HAUSTED!



IT'S
BETTER
NOT
TO DO
ANYTHING
THAT ISN'T
ON YOUR
PATIENT
CHART.

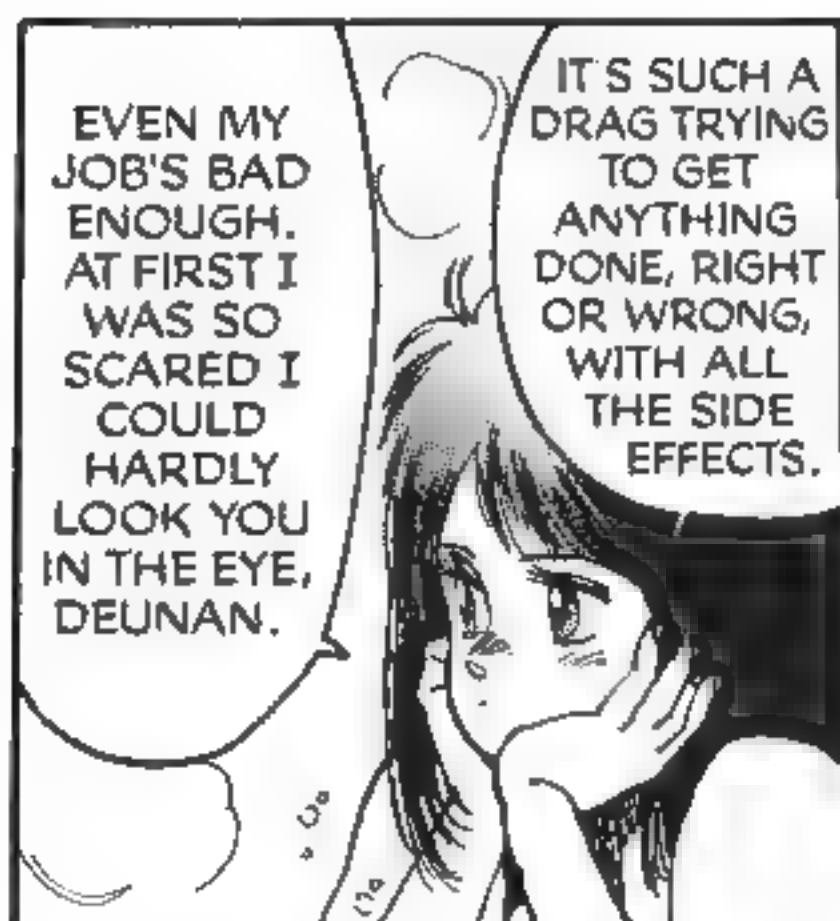
I'M
JUST
GETTING
A LIGHT
TREAT-
MENT,
ANYWAY!

YAWN:



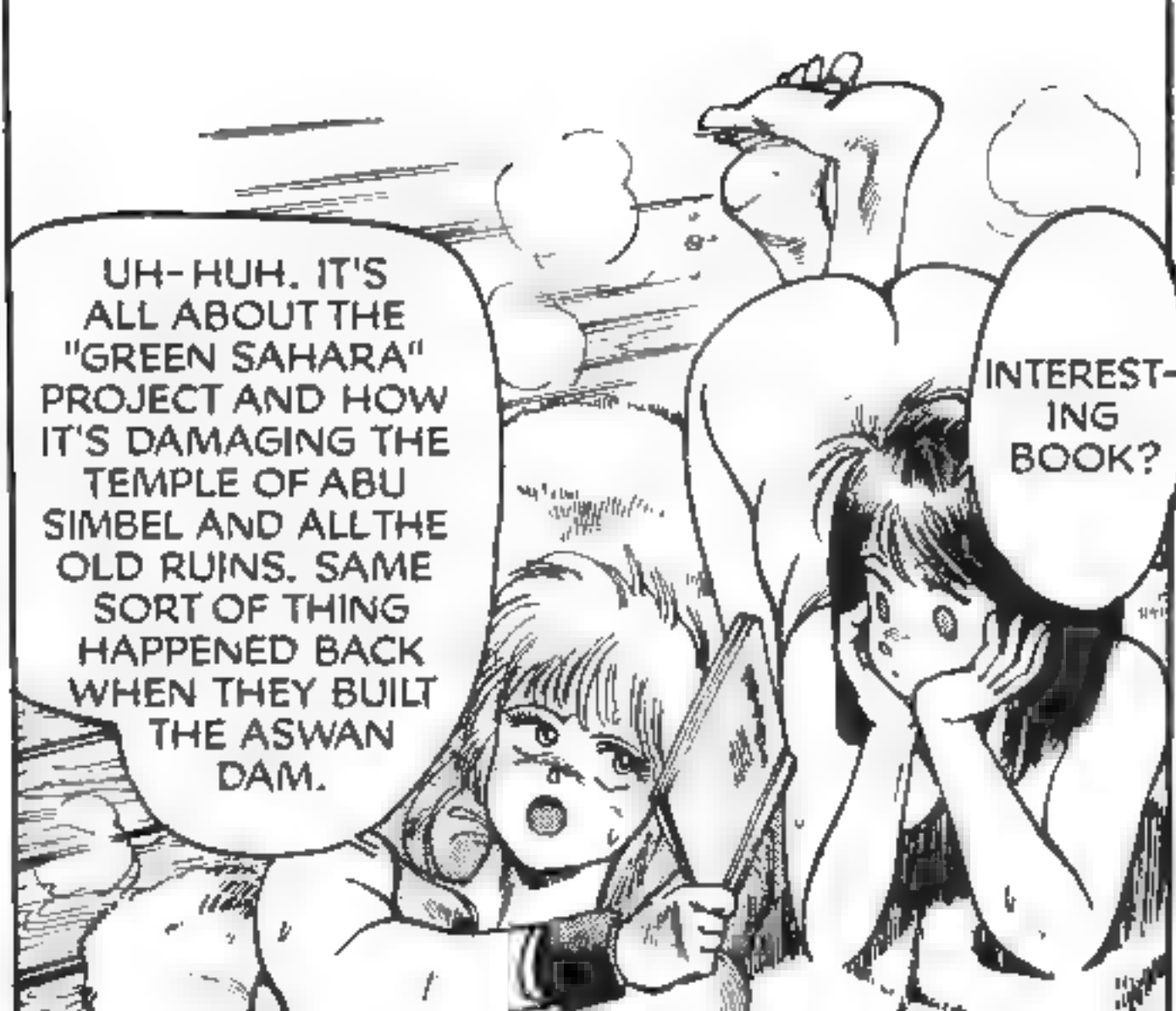
HEY! YOU
SKIPPING
WORK
AGAIN?
MUST BE
NICE!

HI,
HITOMI
DEAR.
THIS ISN'T
YOUR PRO-
GRAMMED
DAY,
IS IT?



EVEN MY JOB'S BAD ENOUGH. AT FIRST I WAS SO SCARED I COULD HARDLY LOOK YOU IN THE EYE, DEUNAN.

IT'S SUCH A DRAG TRYING TO GET ANYTHING DONE, RIGHT OR WRONG, WITH ALL THE SIDE EFFECTS.



UH-HUH. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE "GREEN SAHARA" PROJECT AND HOW IT'S DAMAGING THE TEMPLE OF ABU SIMBEL AND ALL THE OLD RUINS. SAME SORT OF THING HAPPENED BACK WHEN THEY BUILT THE ASWAN DAM.

INTERESTING BOOK?



MY GRAND-MOTHER WAS A "CAFÉ AU LAIT" FROM SUDAN.

NOT A SHONA.

YOU'RE KID-DING!



WHAT?!

YOU KNOW, YOU'D NEVER GUESS IT, BUT I'VE GOT THE BLOOD OF AFRICA-- THE WATER OF THE WHITE NILE-- RUNNING IN MY VEINS.

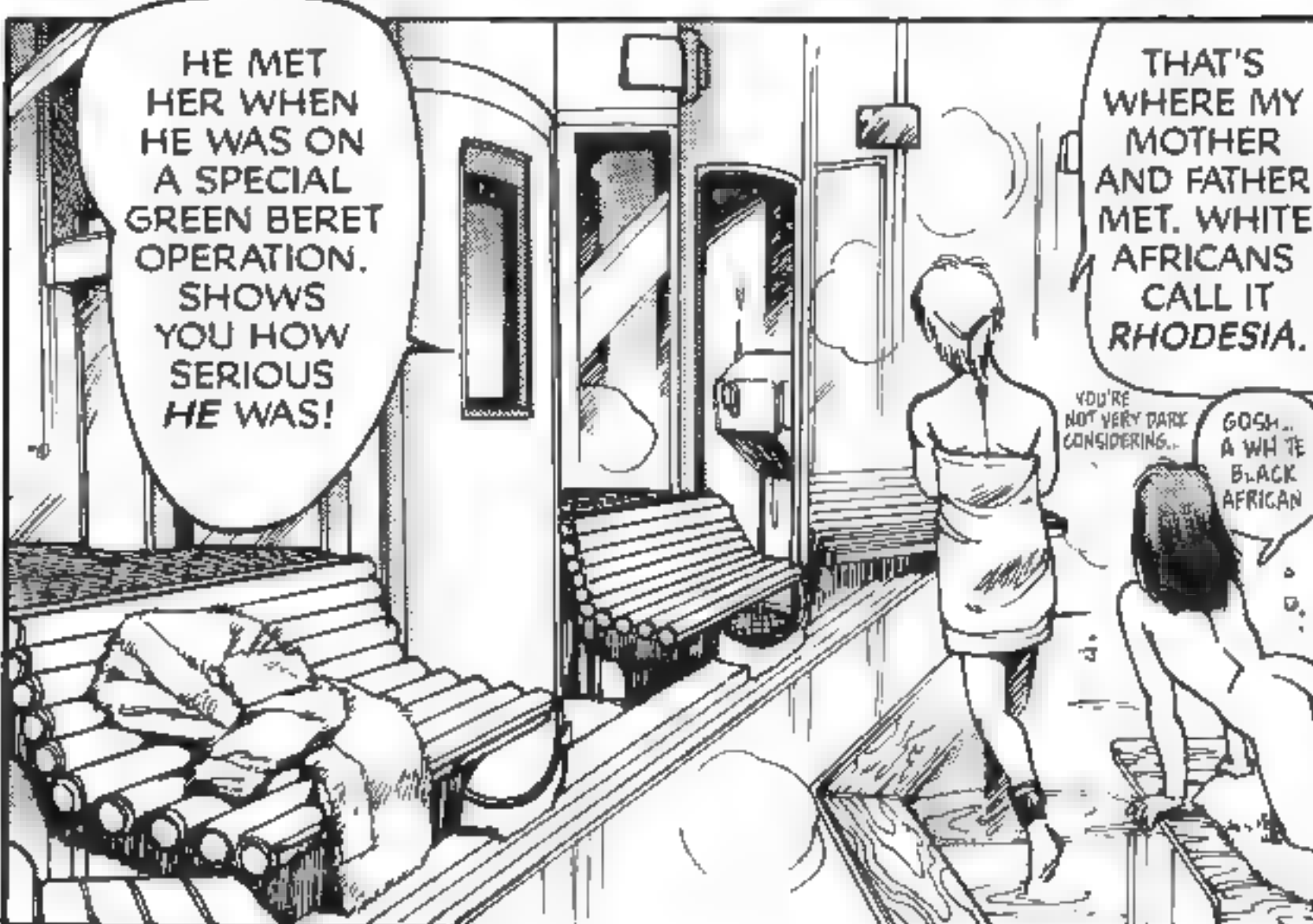


ACTUALLY, NO. HE WAS AN ANGLO-FRENCH JOURNALIST FOR THE BBC.

DID HE MEET HER AS AN ISLAMIC EXILE?

SO IF YOU WERE NEAR MEROE, YOUR GRAND-FATHER MUST HAVE BEEN AN ARAB...?

(He was trying to irritate Anyana!!!)

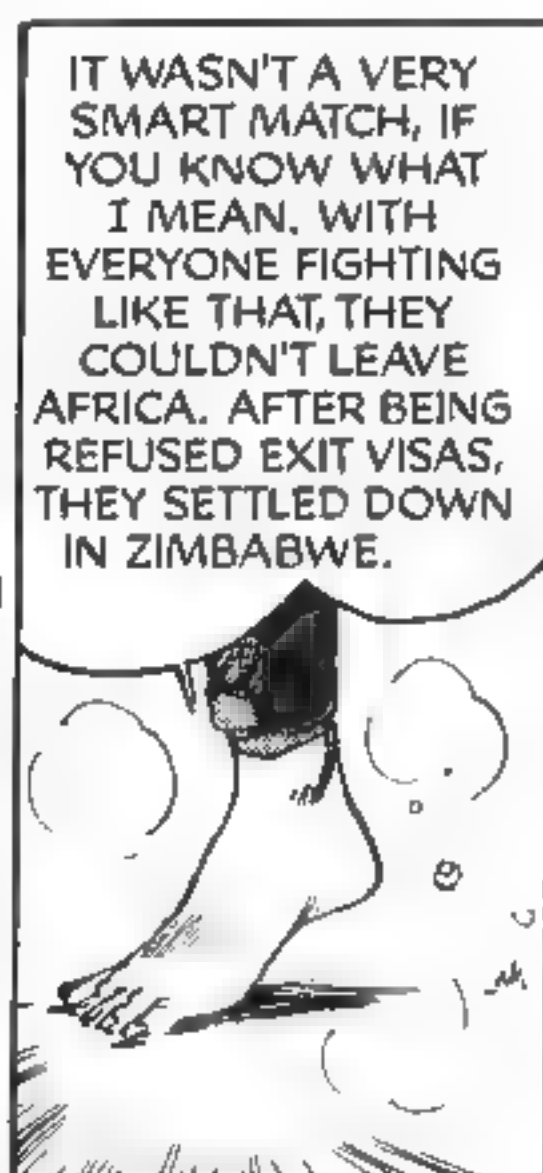


HE MET HER WHEN HE WAS ON A SPECIAL GREEN BERET OPERATION. SHOWS YOU HOW SERIOUS HE WAS!

THAT'S WHERE MY MOTHER AND FATHER MET. WHITE AFRICANS CALL IT RHODESIA.

YOU'RE NOT VERY DARK CONSIDERING...

GOSH... A WHITE BLACK AFRICAN



IT WASN'T A VERY SMART MATCH, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. WITH EVERYONE FIGHTING LIKE THAT, THEY COULDN'T LEAVE AFRICA. AFTER BEING REFUSED EXIT VISAS, THEY SETTLED DOWN IN ZIMBABWE.



SOME BLACK SUPREMACISTS ACCUSED HER OF TRYING TO ACT LIKE A "WHITEY" BECAUSE SHE HAD PALE SKIN. THEY USED A SHOTGUN ON HER... "HEY, KAFFIR!"

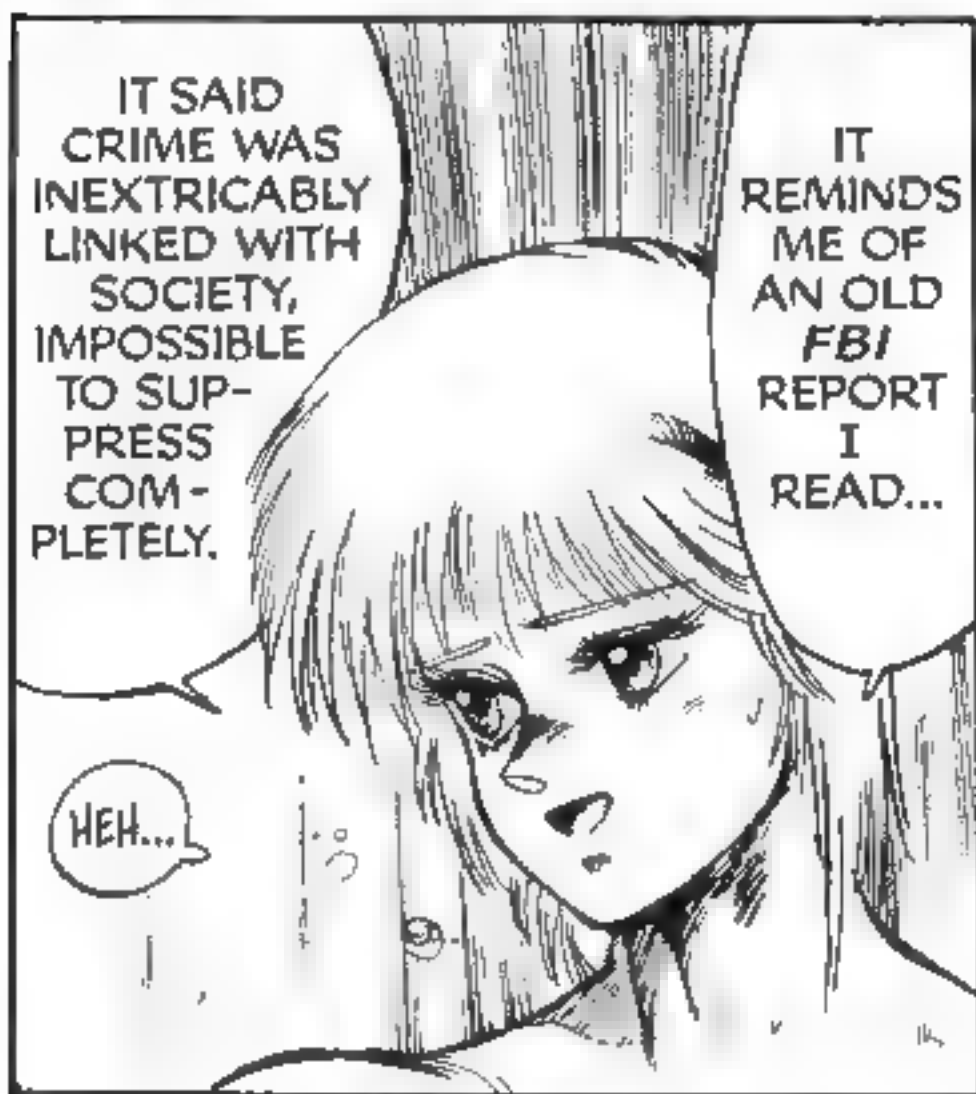
WHEN I WAS TEN, MY MOTHER VISITED FRISCO.

BUT THANKS TO MY DUMB DAD, I WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE THE WAR AND MEET BRIAREOS.

KYU KYU



R.P.



IT SAID CRIME WAS INEXTRICABLY LINKED WITH SOCIETY, IMPOSSIBLE TO SUPPRESS COMPLETELY.

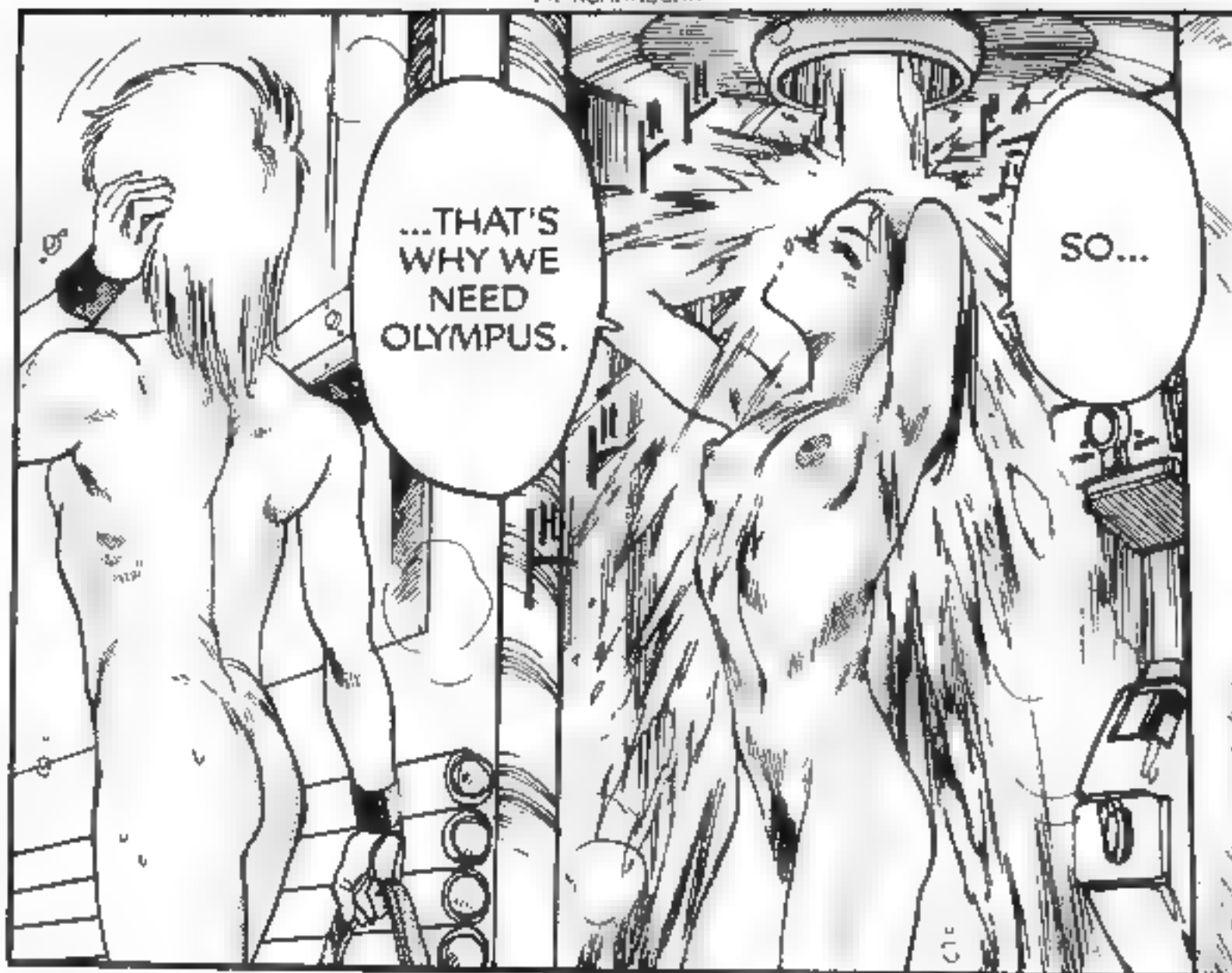
IT REMINDS ME OF AN OLD FBI REPORT I READ...

HEH...



...I'VE FORGOTTEN A LOT OF THINGS. MAYBE LAUGHED A BIT TOO MUCH.

SINCE I'VE COME TO THIS CITY...



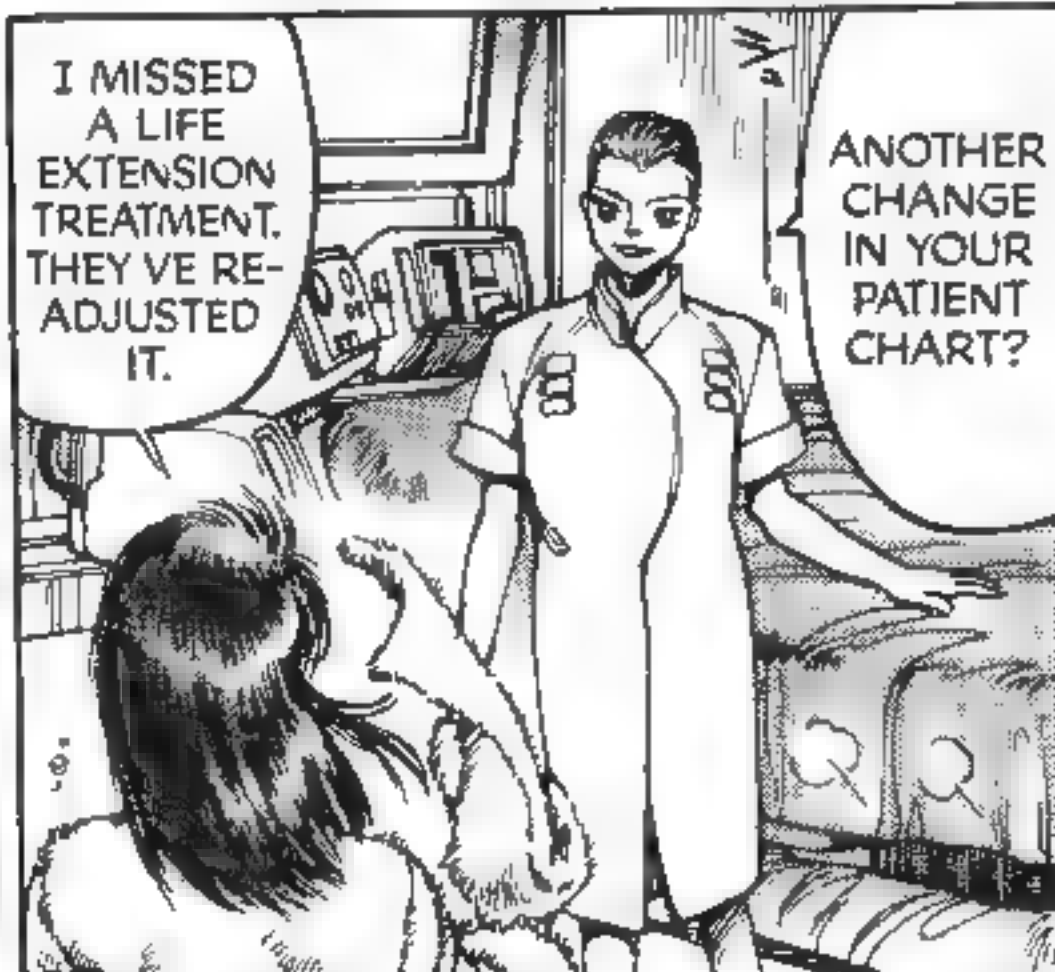
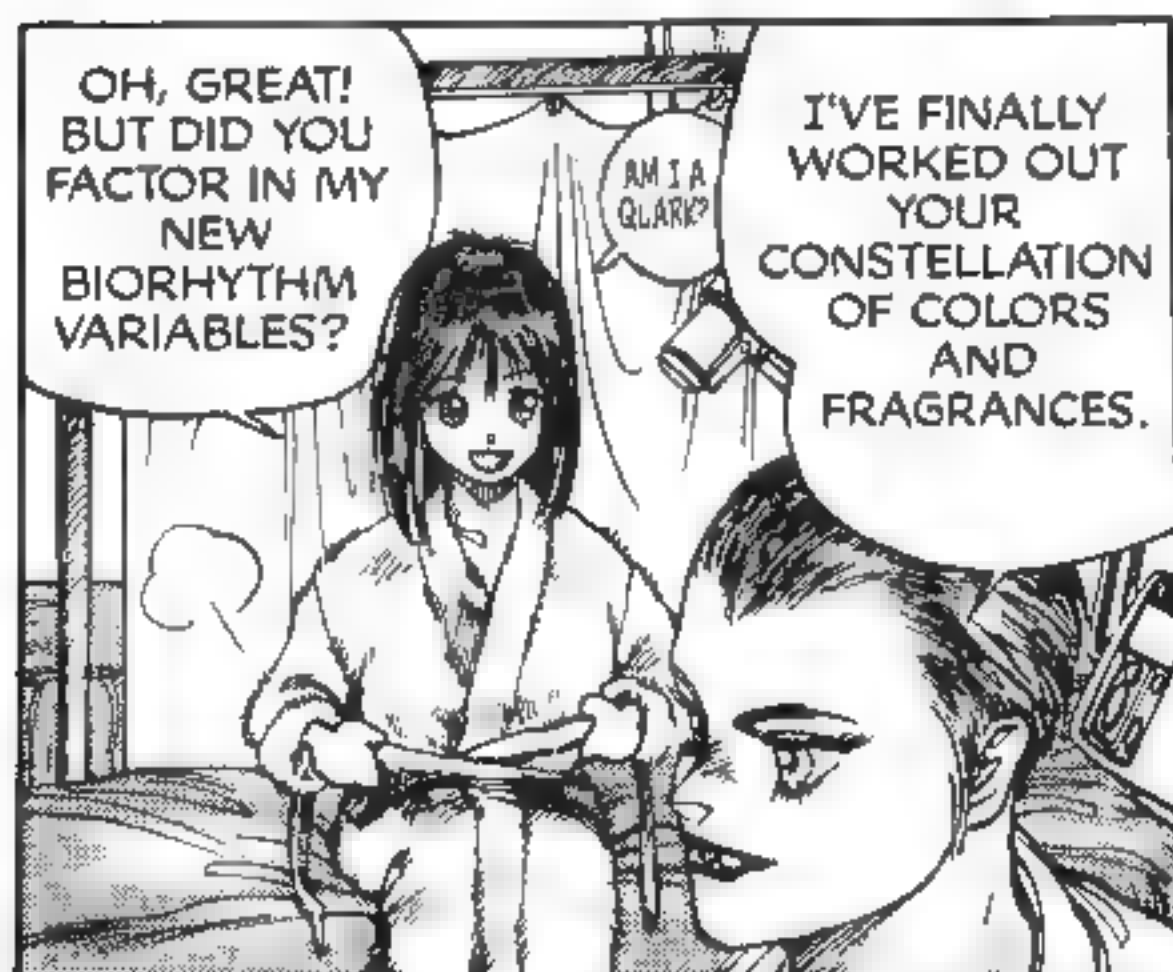




*FX WSSSHH



*FX SHUJUL



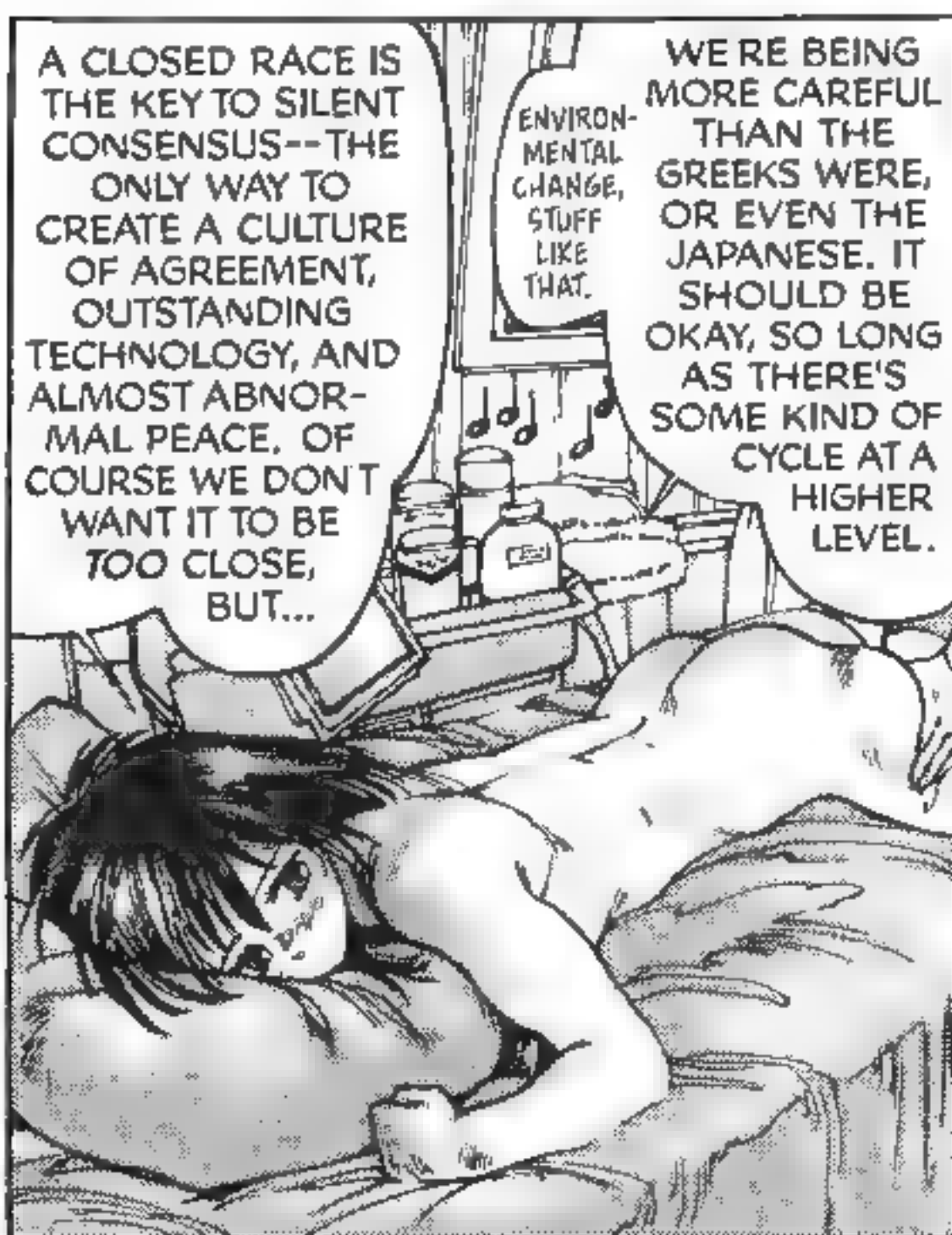
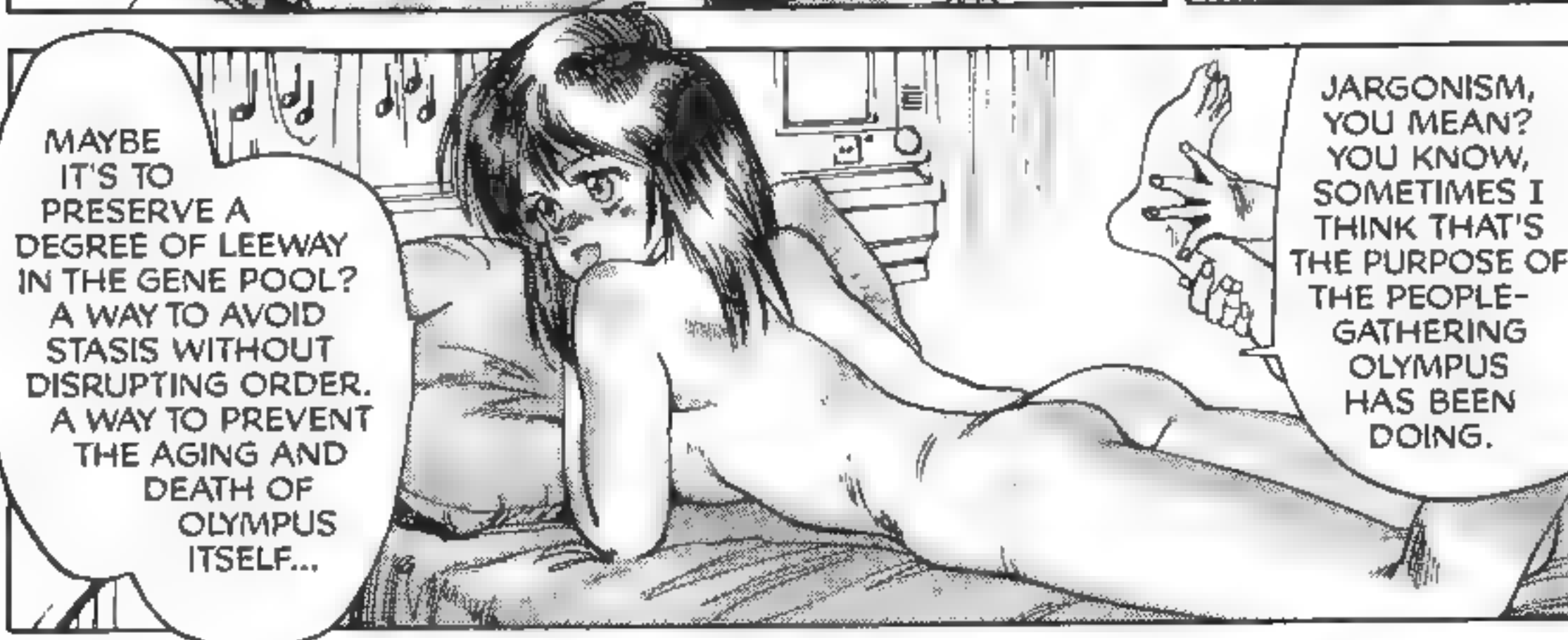
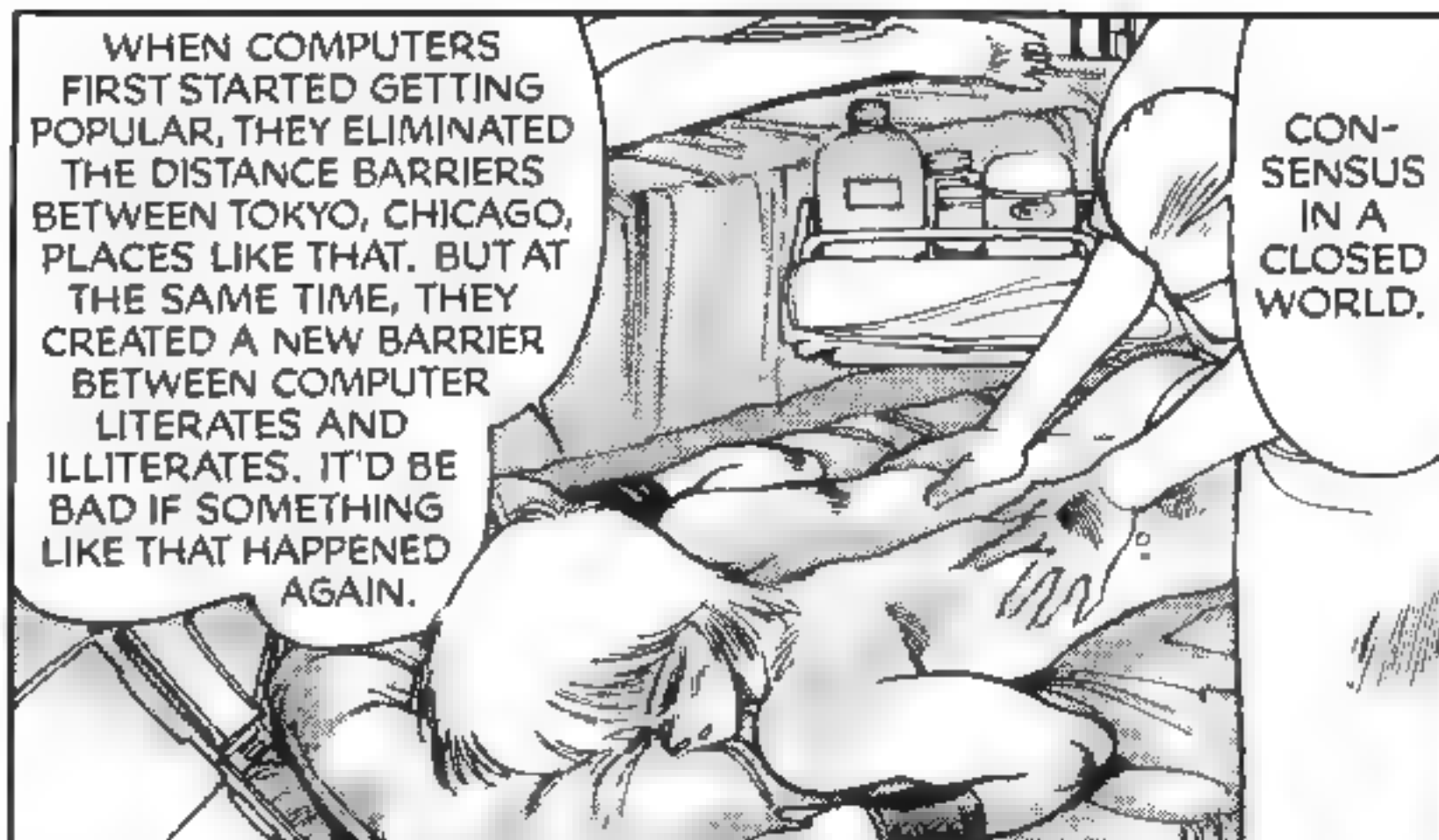


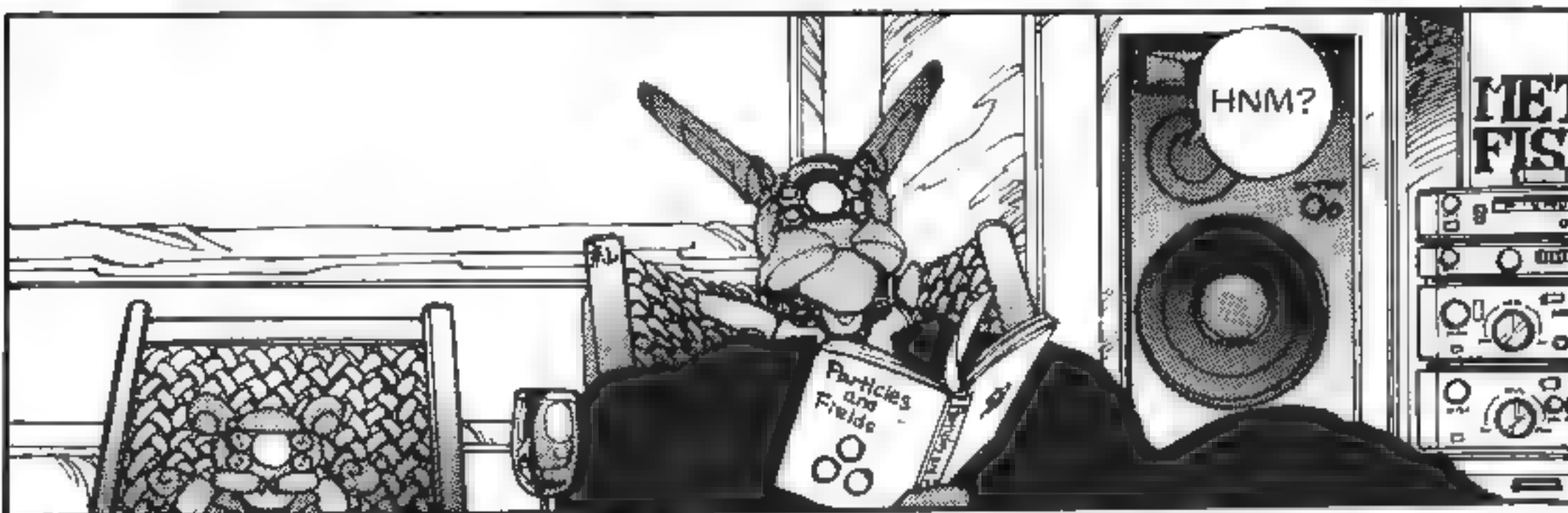
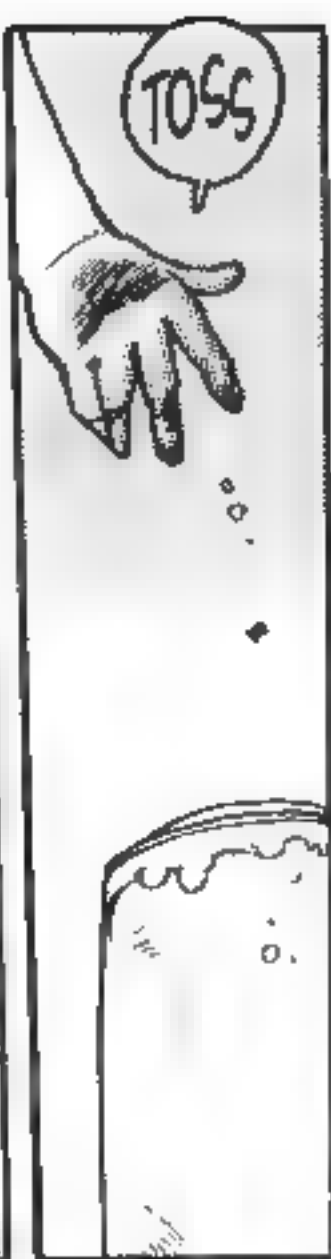
*FX TAKKA TAKKA



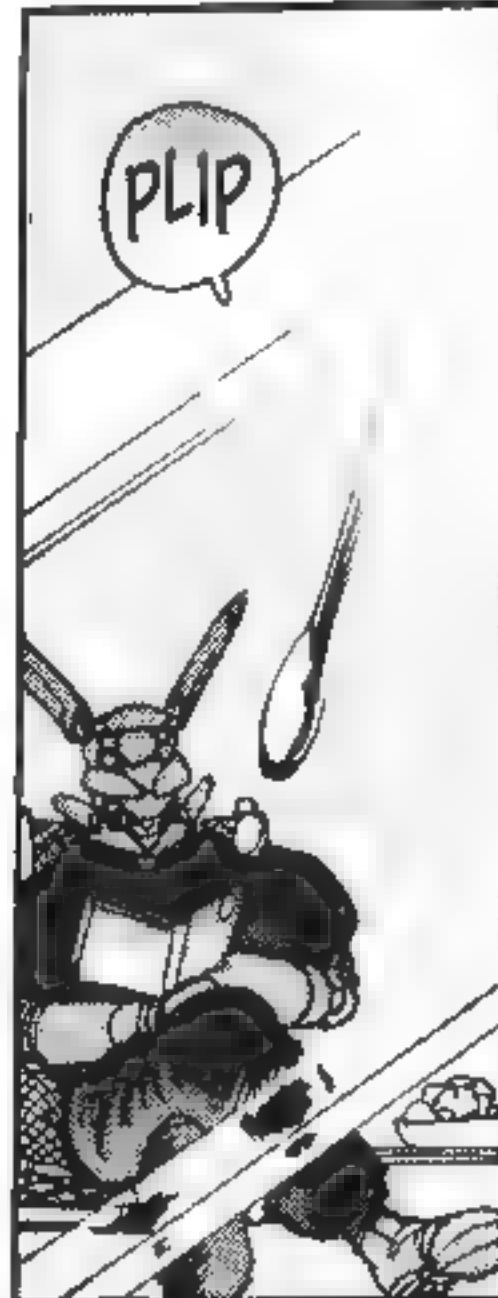
*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP





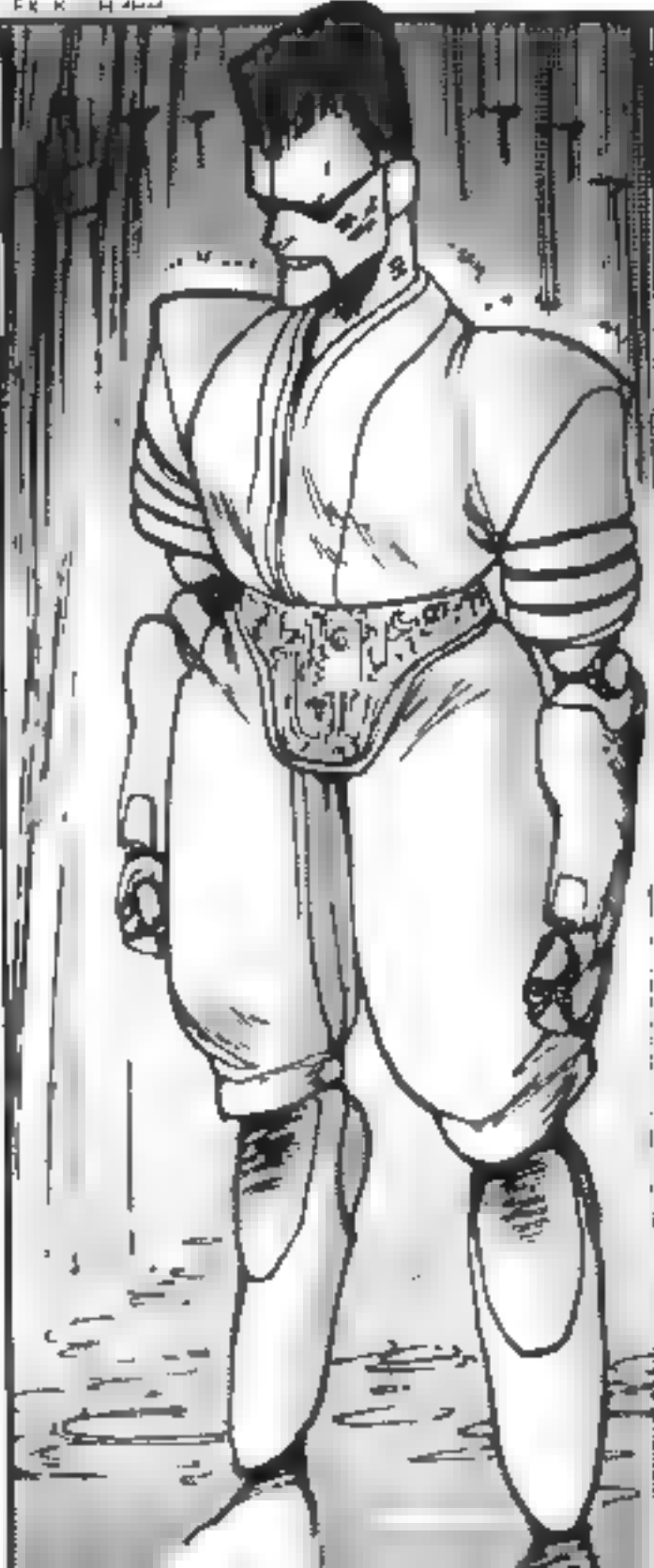


*FX SSSSSS





FX KS JHHH



FX GICH



FX RV



FX FWA



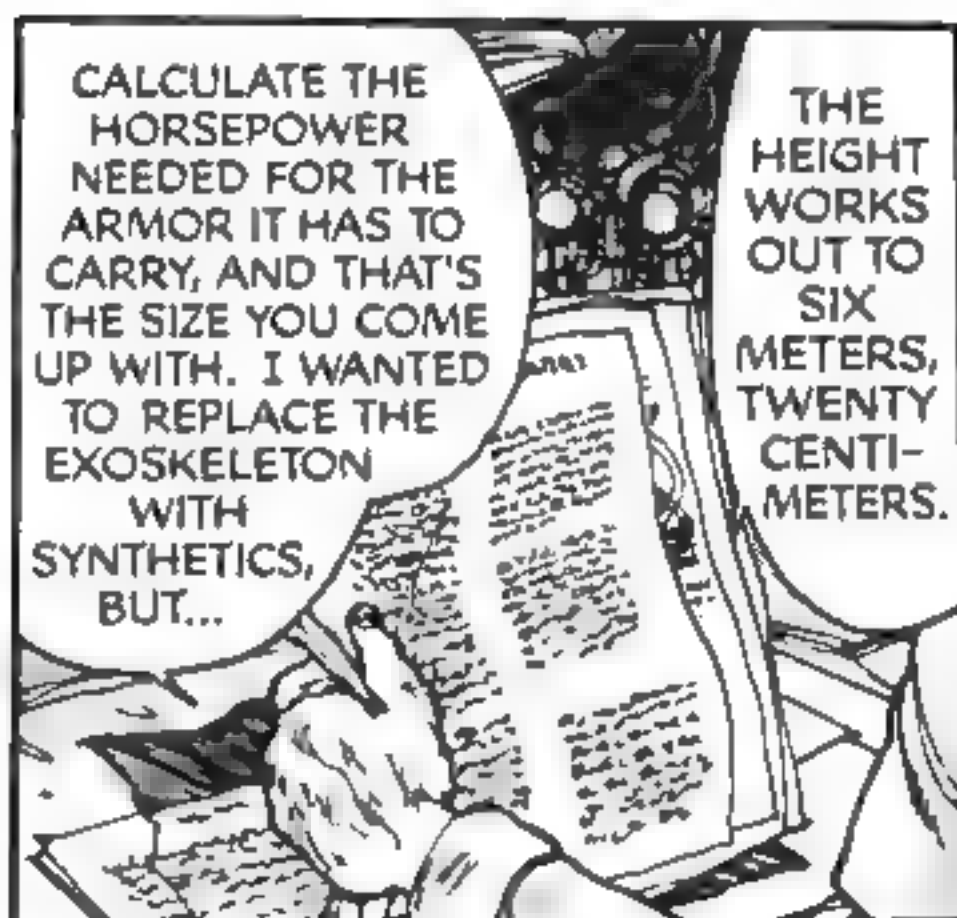
FX SESH SESH SESH



FX BASA BASA



*L tēra-y, "He who is gu ded"--the Muslim savior. The title of an expected spiritua and tempora ruler dest ned to establish a reign of righteousness throughout the world



THE HEIGHT WORKS OUT TO SIX METERS, TWENTY CENTI-METERS.



THAT'S NONE OF MY AFFAIR.

FX SPSH SPSH SPSH



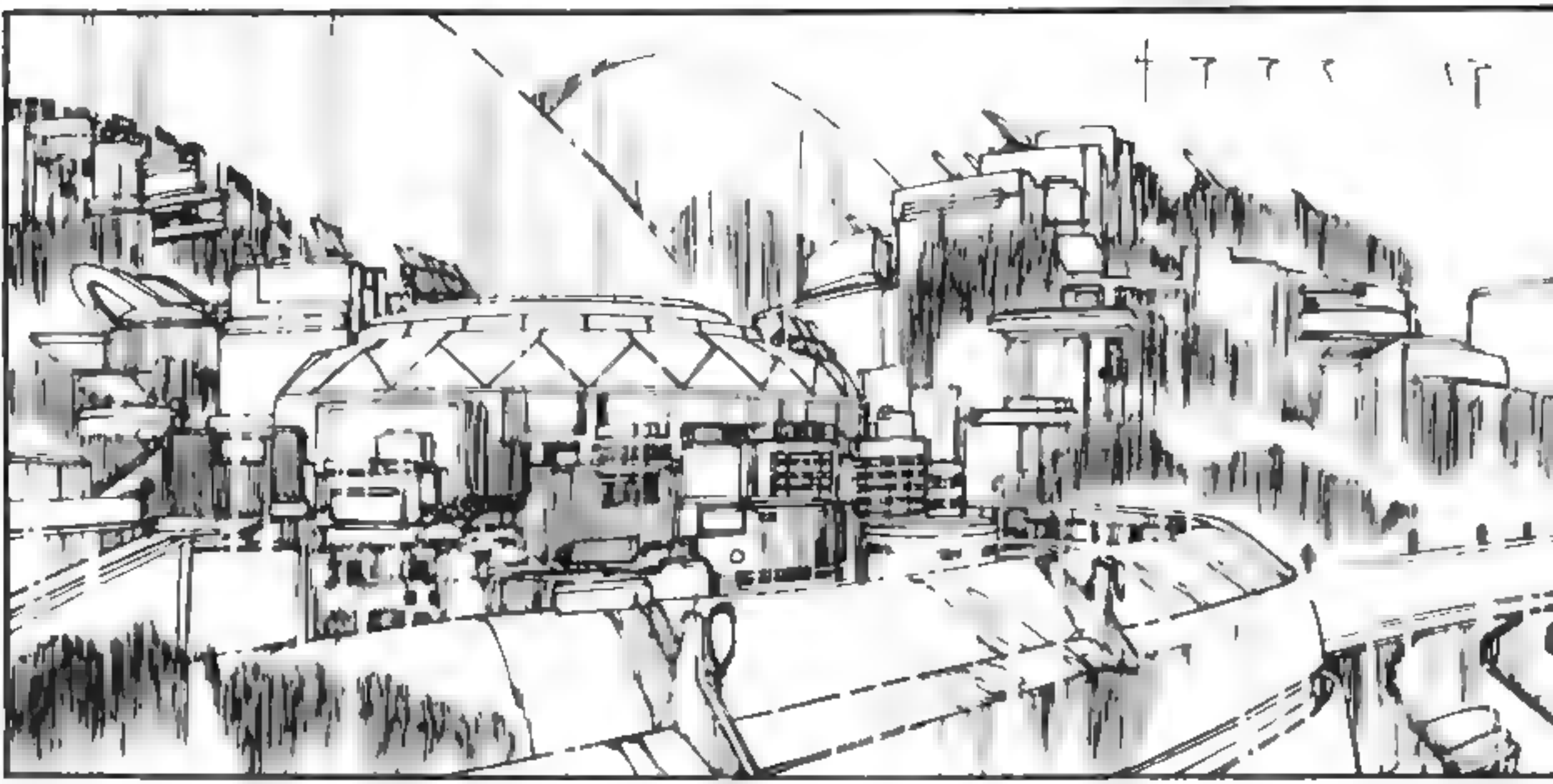
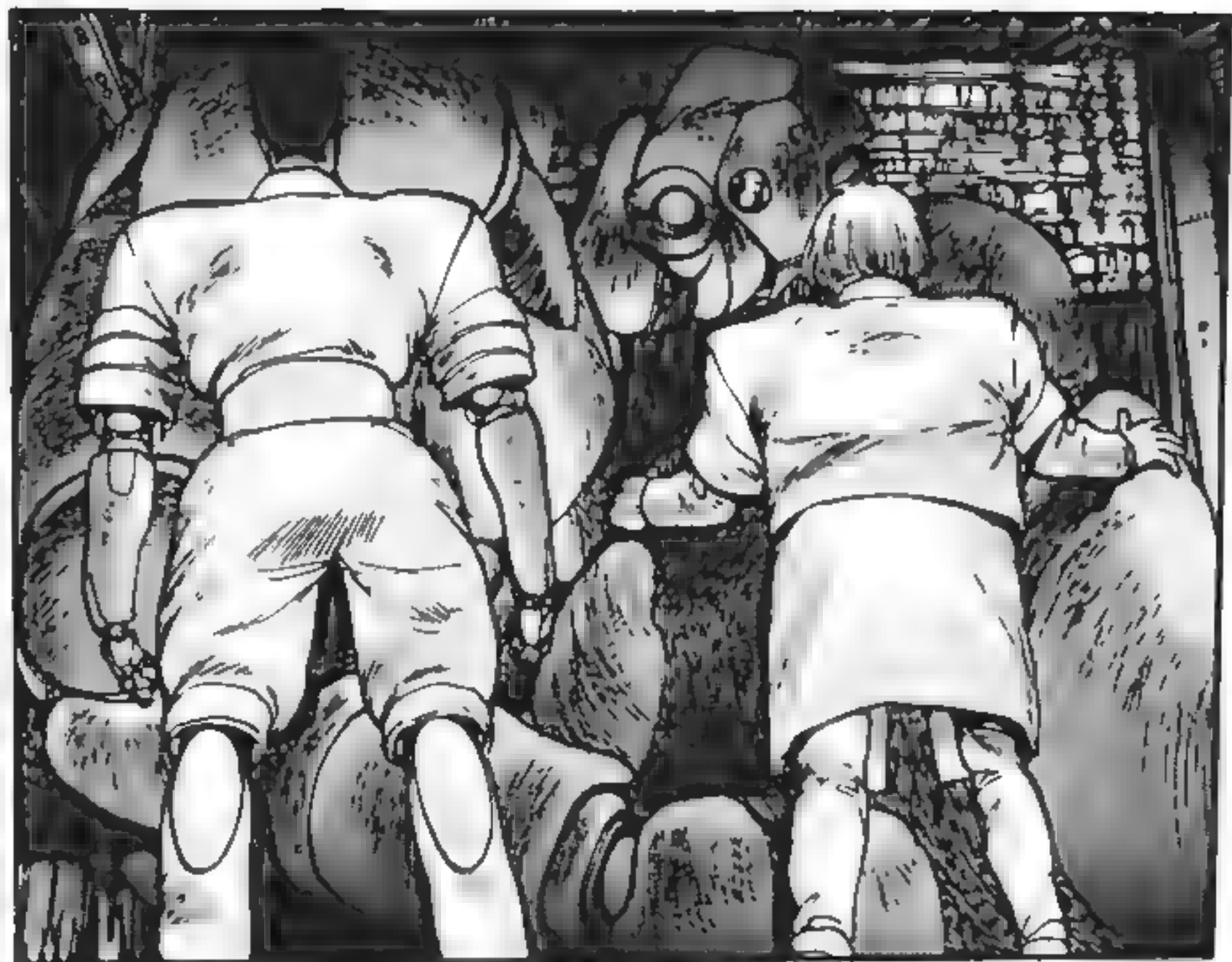
FIRST THE SURGERY. RECONSTRUCTION CAN PROCEED PARALLEL WITH MY REHABILITATION.



SOMEONE'S BOUND TO TRACE ALL THOSE PARTS ORDERS. THEY'RE TOO SPECIALIZED...



ALL I HEAR ARE PATROL CAR SIRENS. WE'VE GOT TO HURRY-- THE NEXT TIME THE COPS COME AROUND, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE THIS.



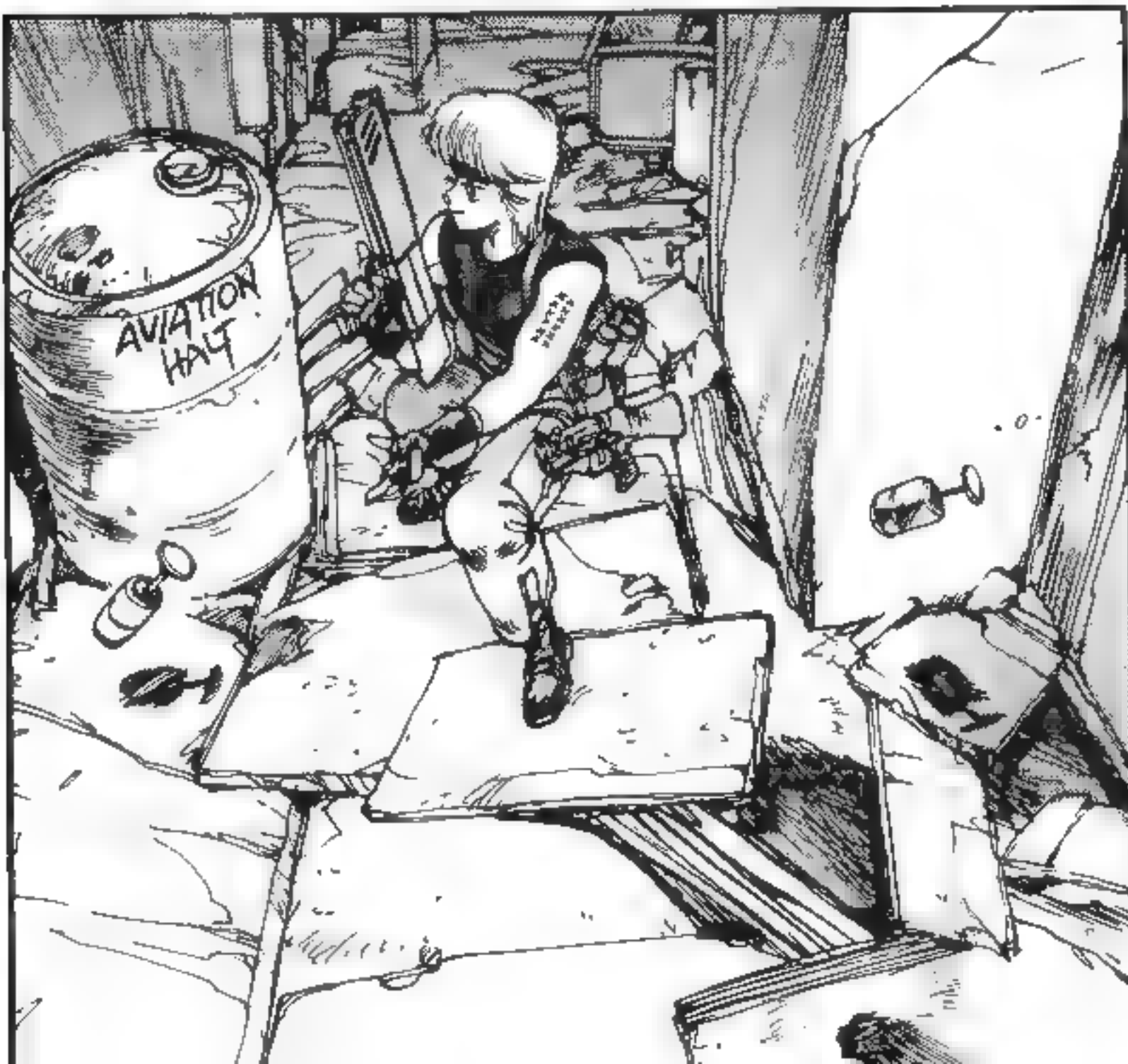




*FX POP



HEY, WHAT'S
YOUR PROB,
MAN?!
YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE RIGHT
BEHIND
ME!





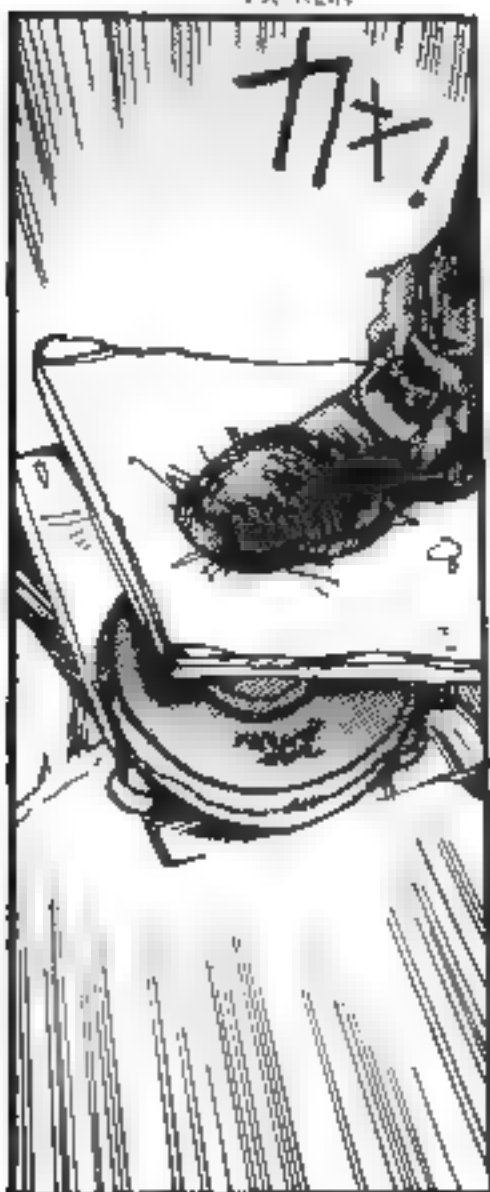
*FX ZASH

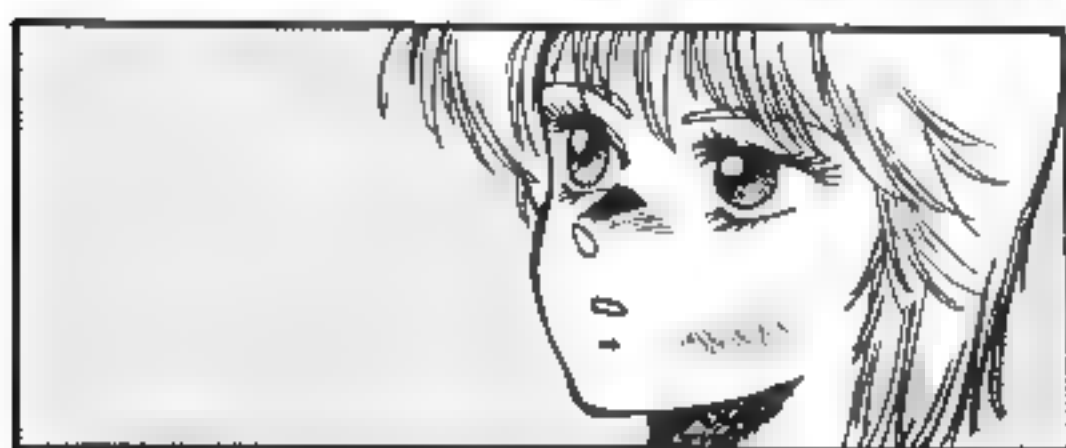


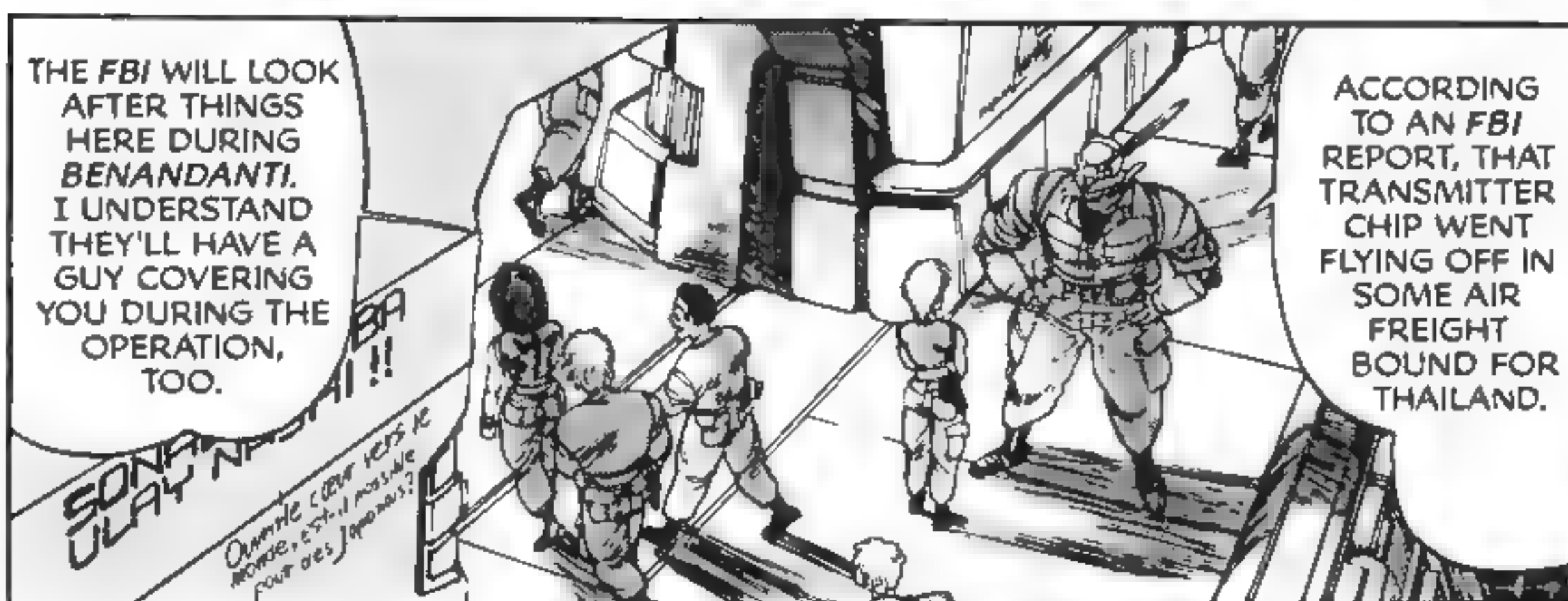
*FX KLIK

*FX SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK

*FX BRRTTTT









IT JUST SHOWS
HOW MUCH HE
WORRIES ABOUT
YOU, OKAY? HE'S
TRYING TO GET
YOU PUMPED, YOU
KNOW, REALLY
GET INTO IT...



RIGHT ON...
I DON'T LIKE HIM
STICKIN' HIS TWO
CENTS IN ALL
THE TIME LIKE
THAT.

WATER
TASTES
LIKE
HAF

HEH
I NO BE
SWEATIN'
THAT ONE,
EH? THE
POINTMAN,
SHE GOT BE
GOOD
ENOUGH WE
ALL C'N
TRUS' HER,
EH!



AND
PROBLEMS
FOR ONE OF
US ARE
PROBLEMS
FOR ALL OF
US, RIGHT?
AM I RIGHT
OR
WHAT?

ONE
WEAK
LINK IN
THE
CHAIN,
EH?

PUT A
CORK IN IT,
WILL YA?!
WE'RE ALL
PART OF THE
SAME TEAM,
YA KNOW!

IT BE
YOU TWO
PROBLEM
ANYWAY,
MON.

DAMN
MERICANS



YOU
GUYS
ON THE
SAME
TEAM AS
DORIC?

HI
THERE...



SURE...

IT'S TRUE...
WE'RE NOT
CYBORGS,
YOU
KNOW.
YOU'VE
GOT TO
CUT US A
BIT MORE
SLACK,
OKAY?



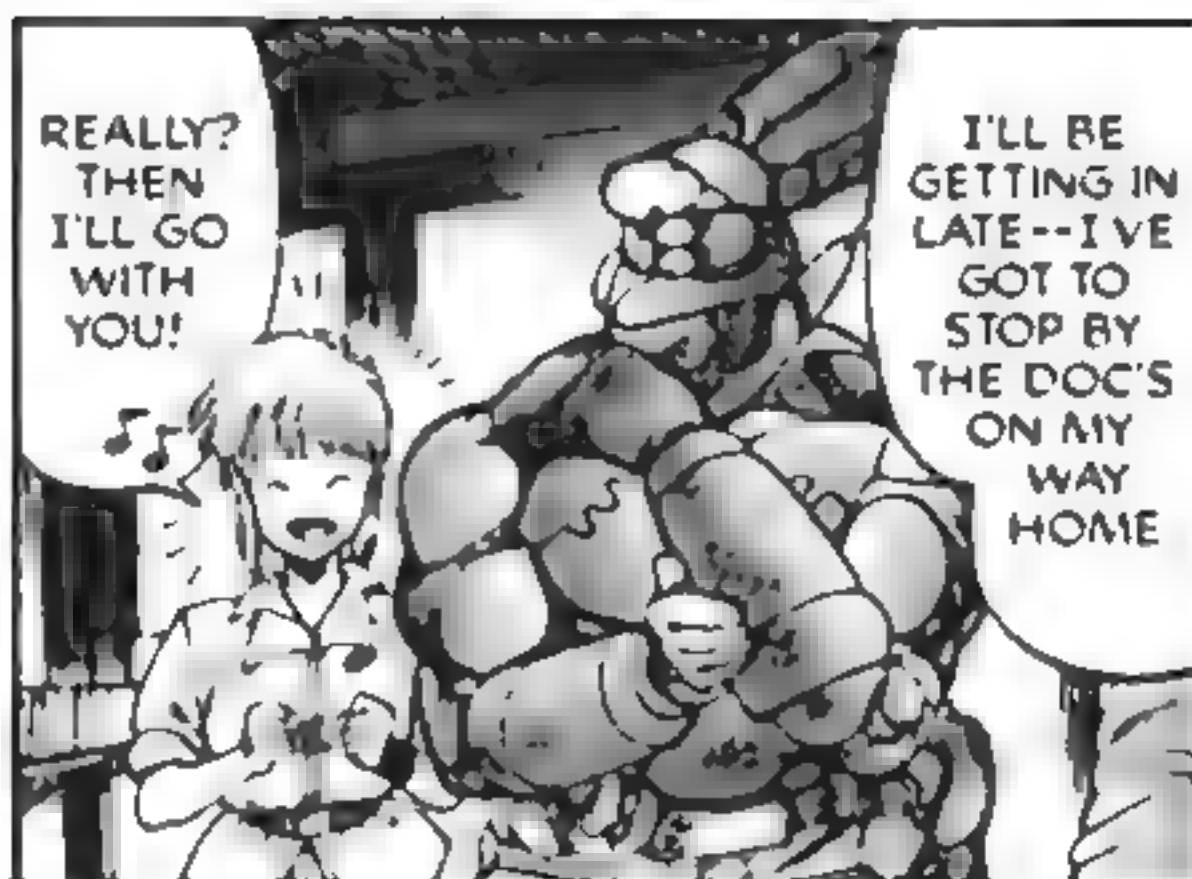
YEAH, BUT
THAT CYBORG,
MON... WE NO
C'N SEE IT,
Y'KNOW, BUT
HE SAY YOU
BEEN ACTIN'
MORE
RUTHLESS'N
USUAL. HE
REALLY
WORRIED,
MON.

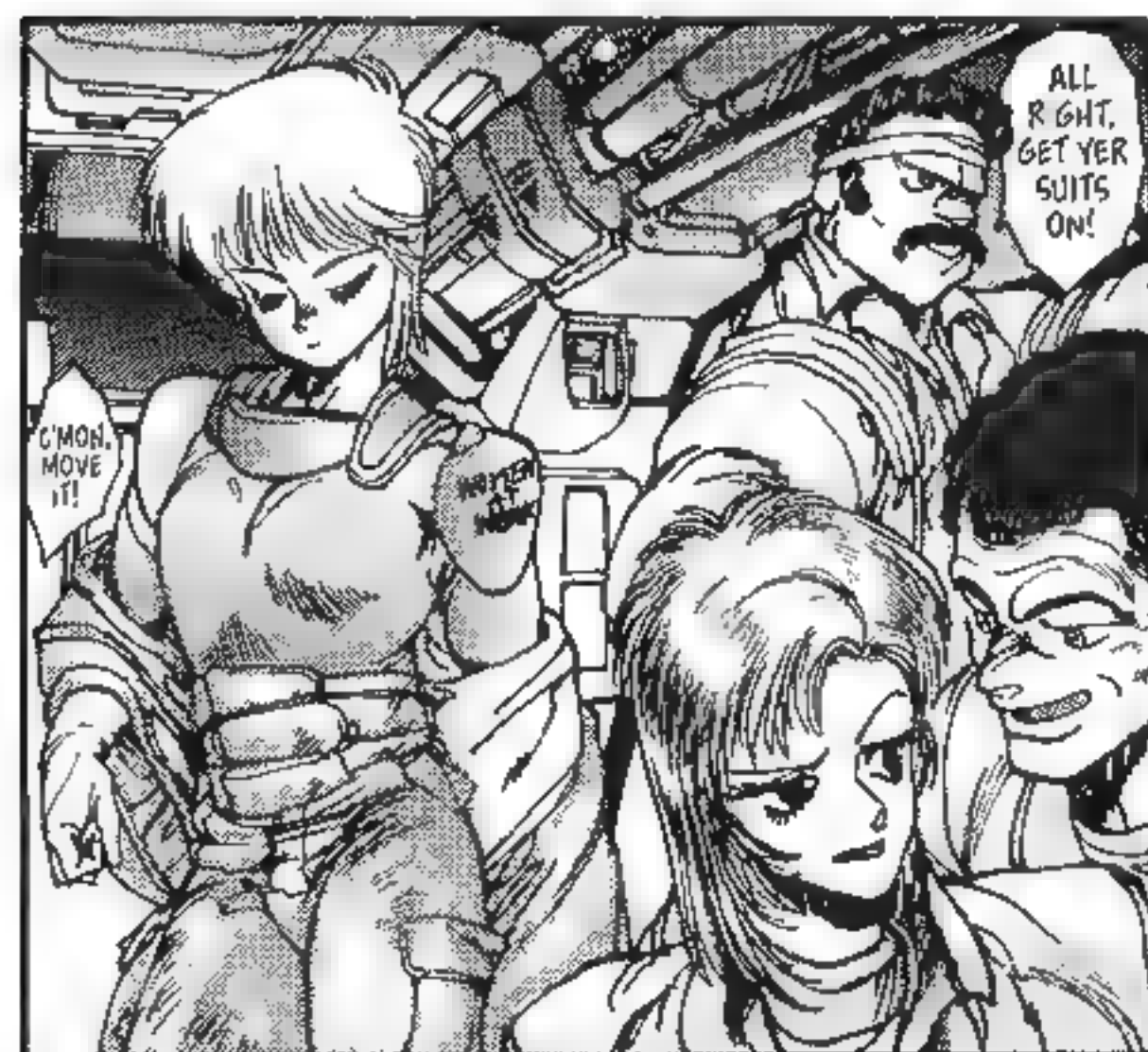
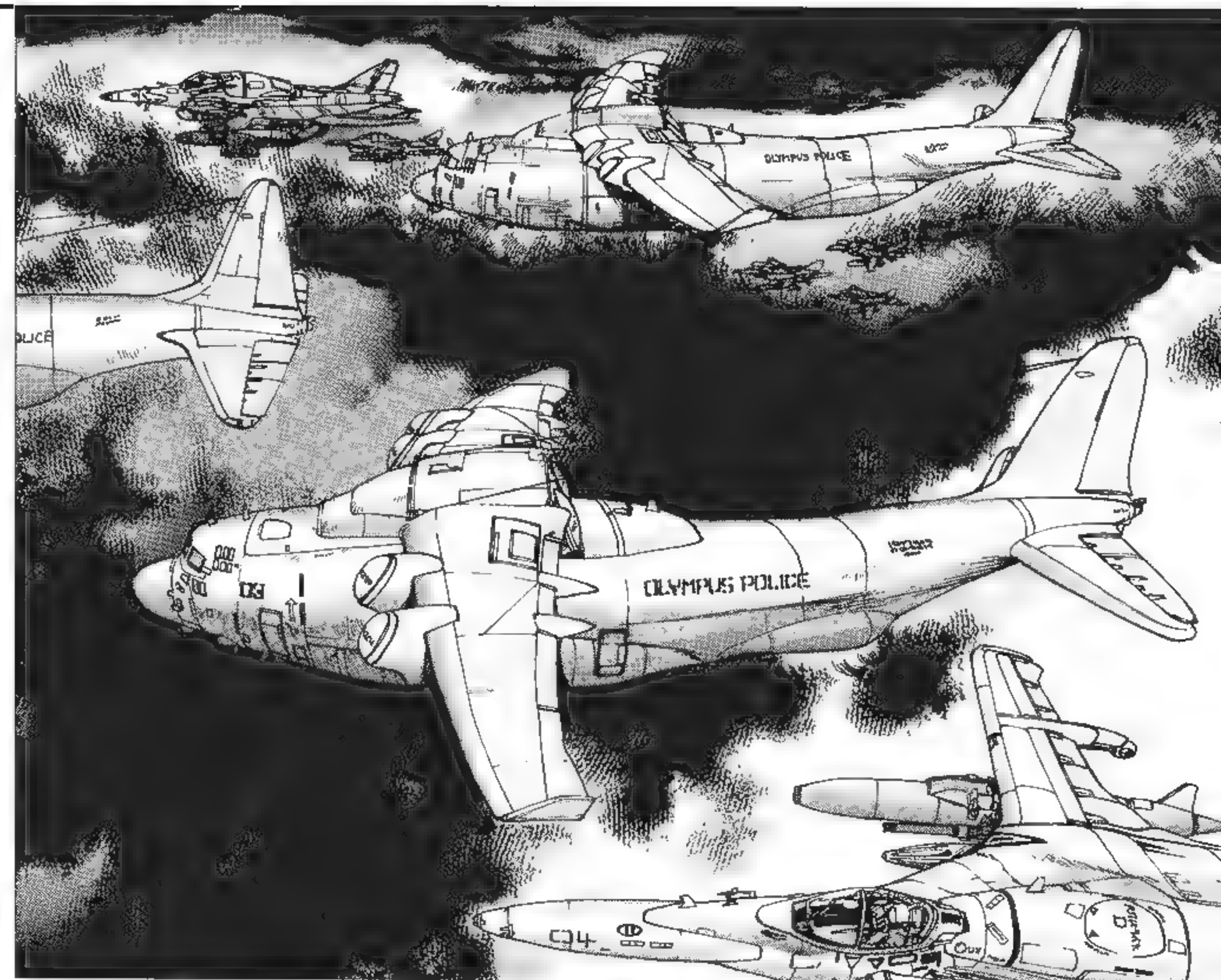
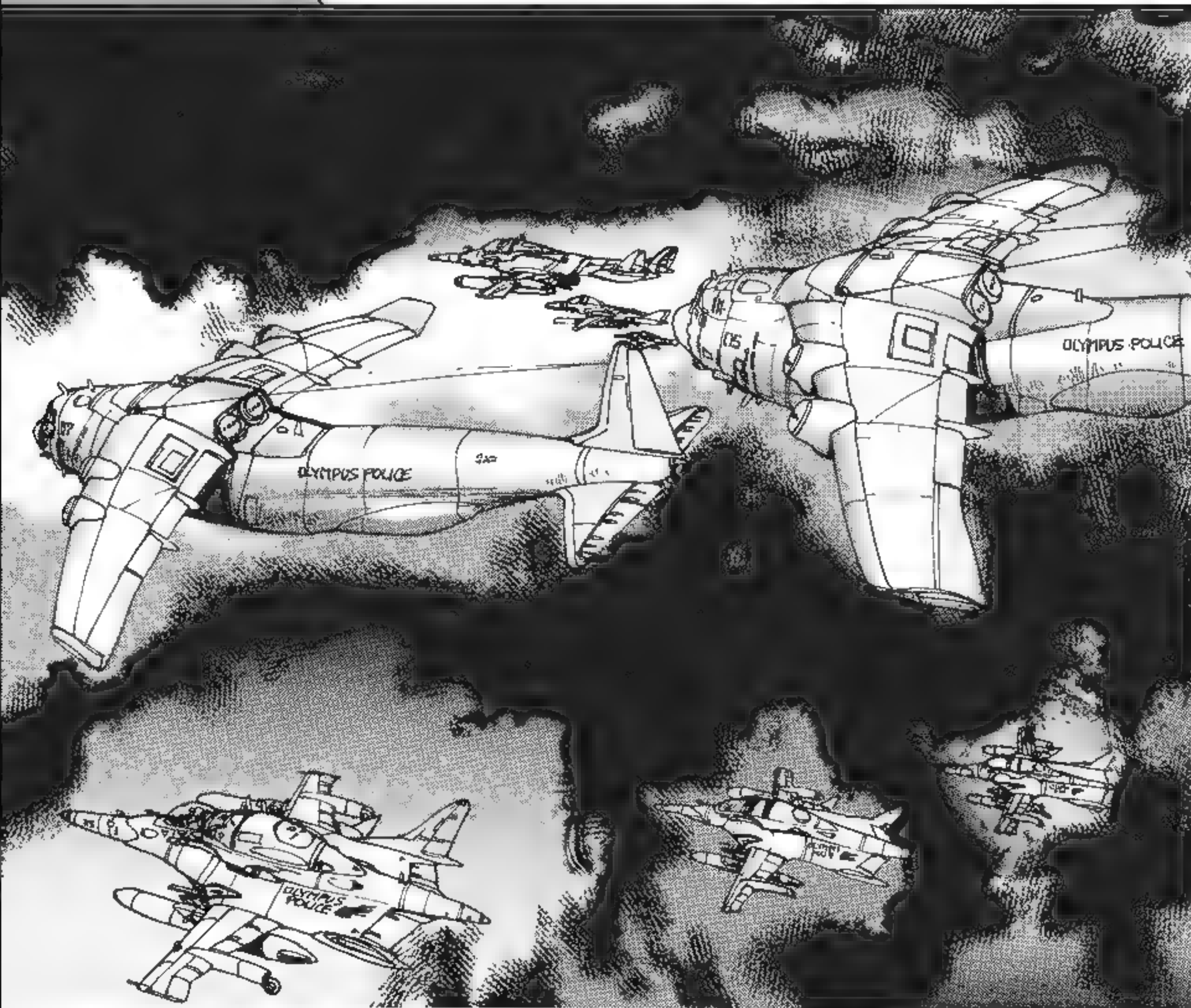


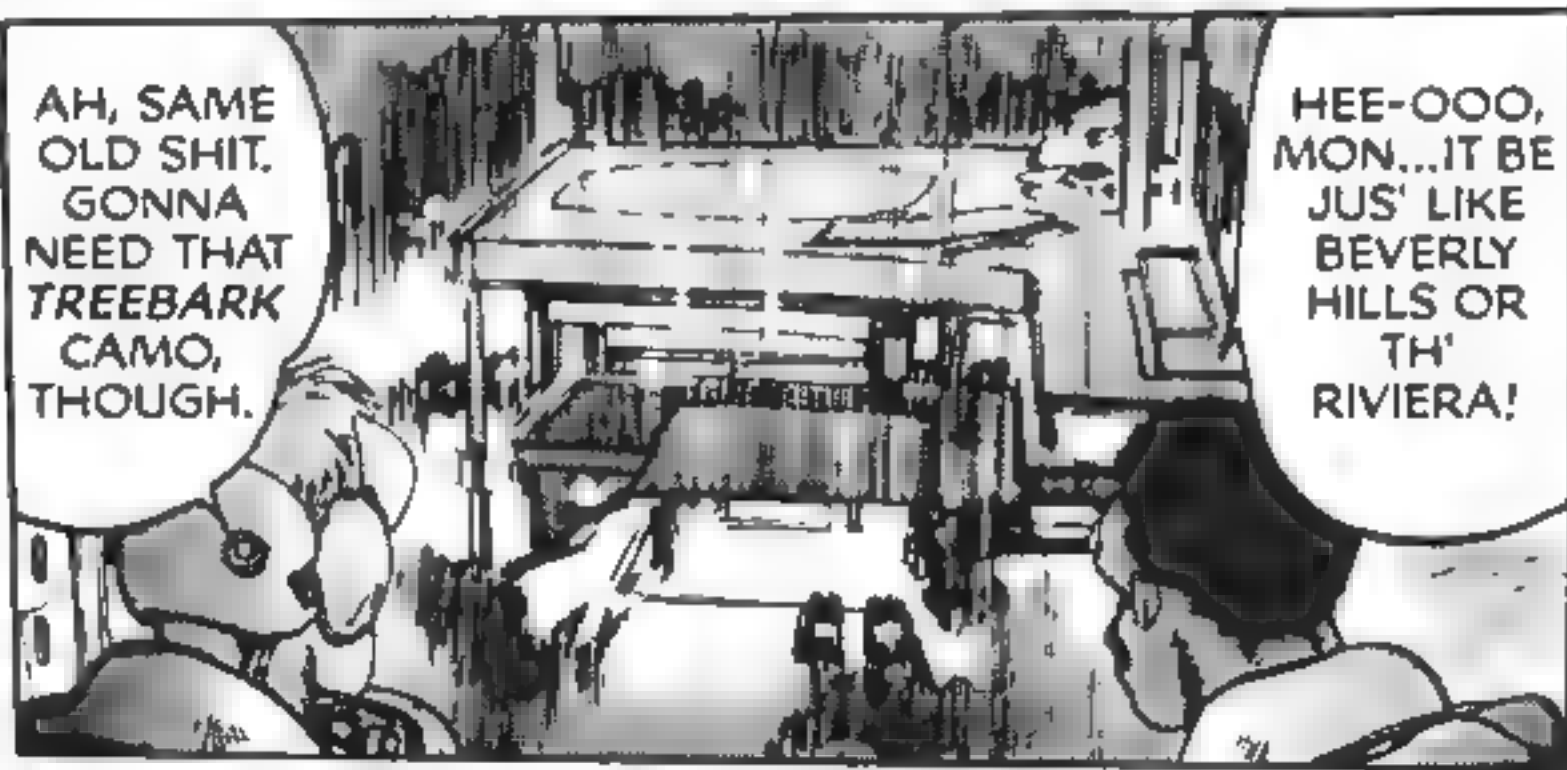
At a higher level, even if the entire area can be seen all at once, the Planck constant is the footfalls of a flea, but hardly applicable to us being prisoners of horrors. (joke)











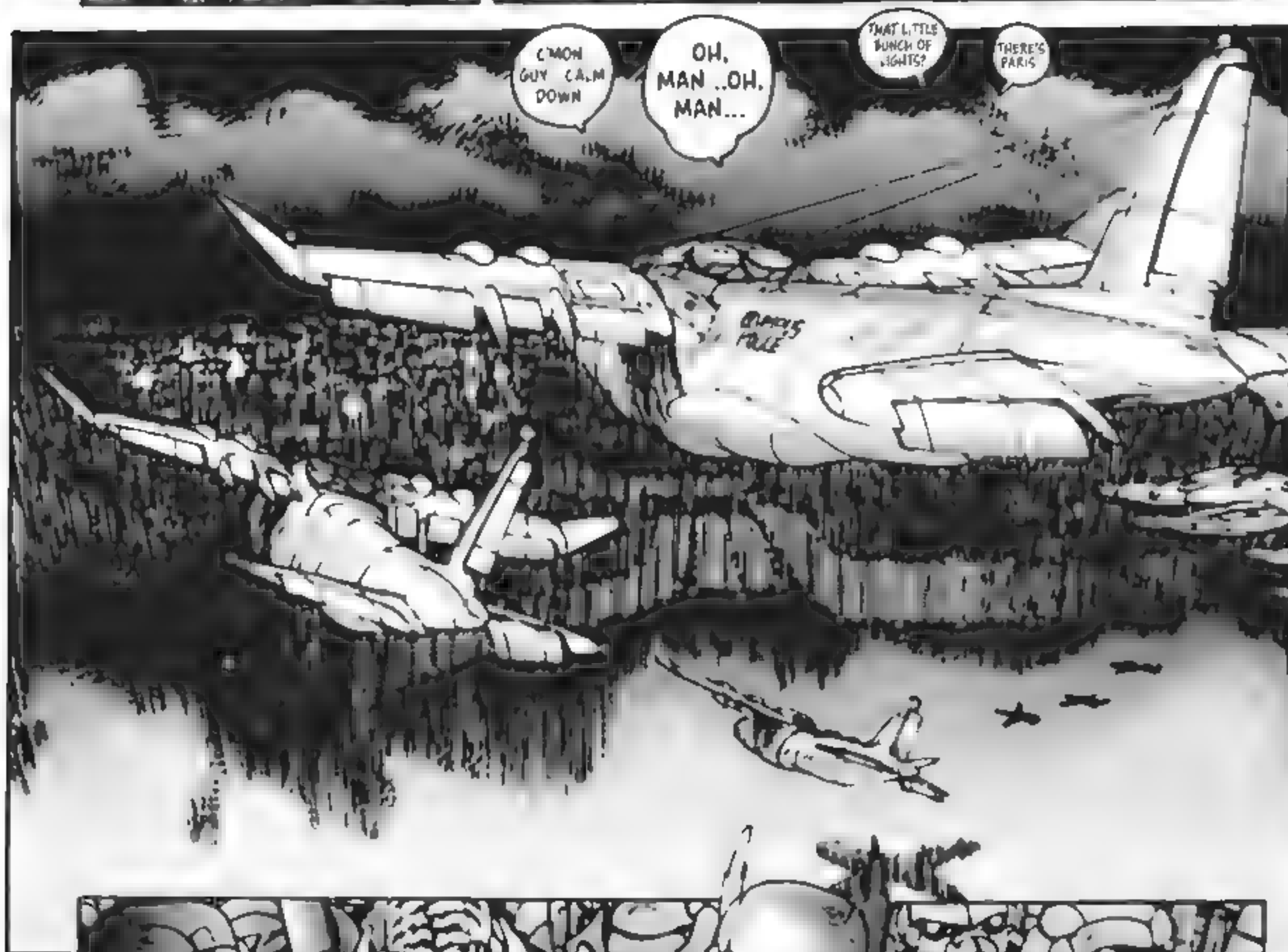


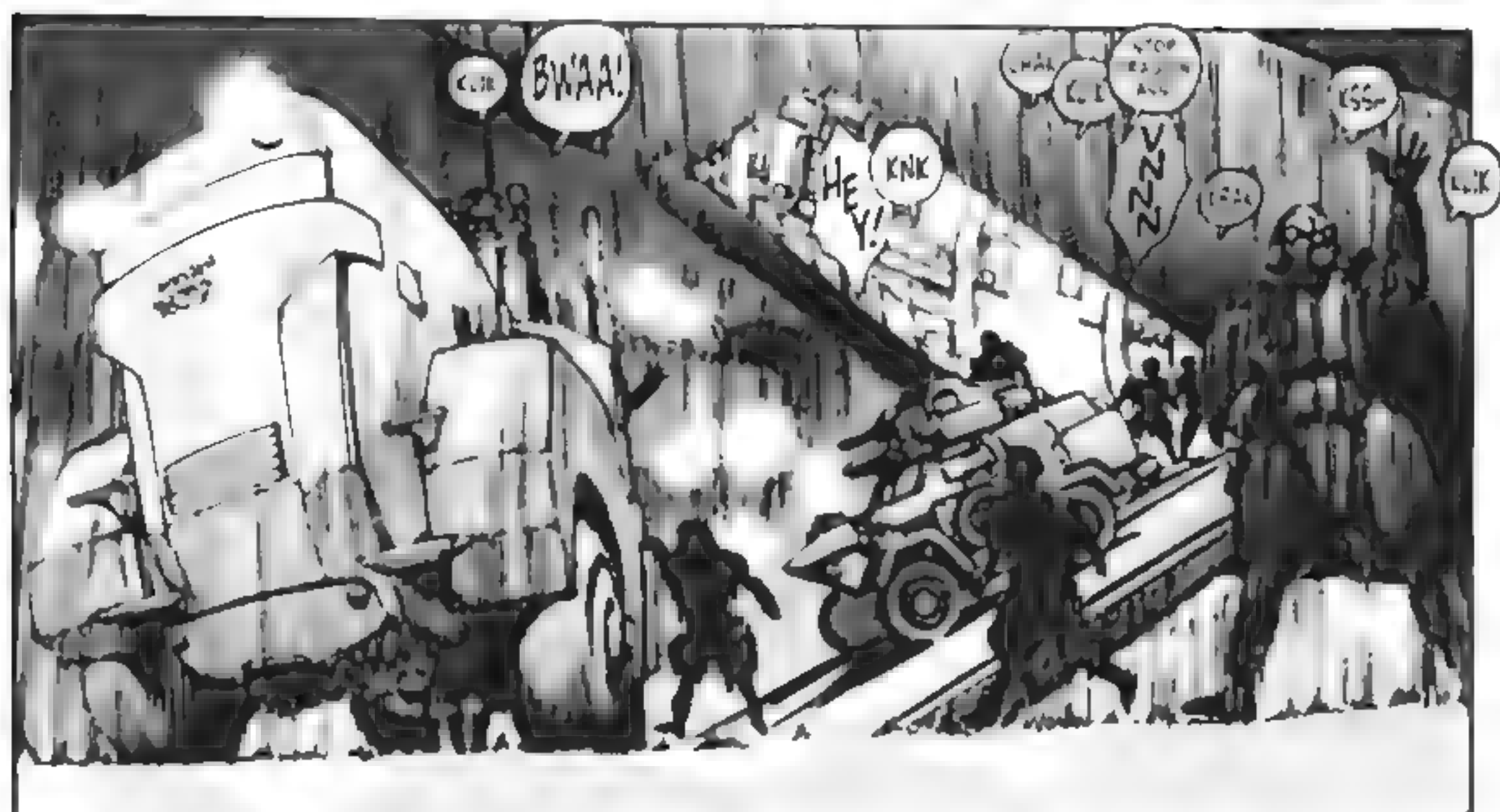


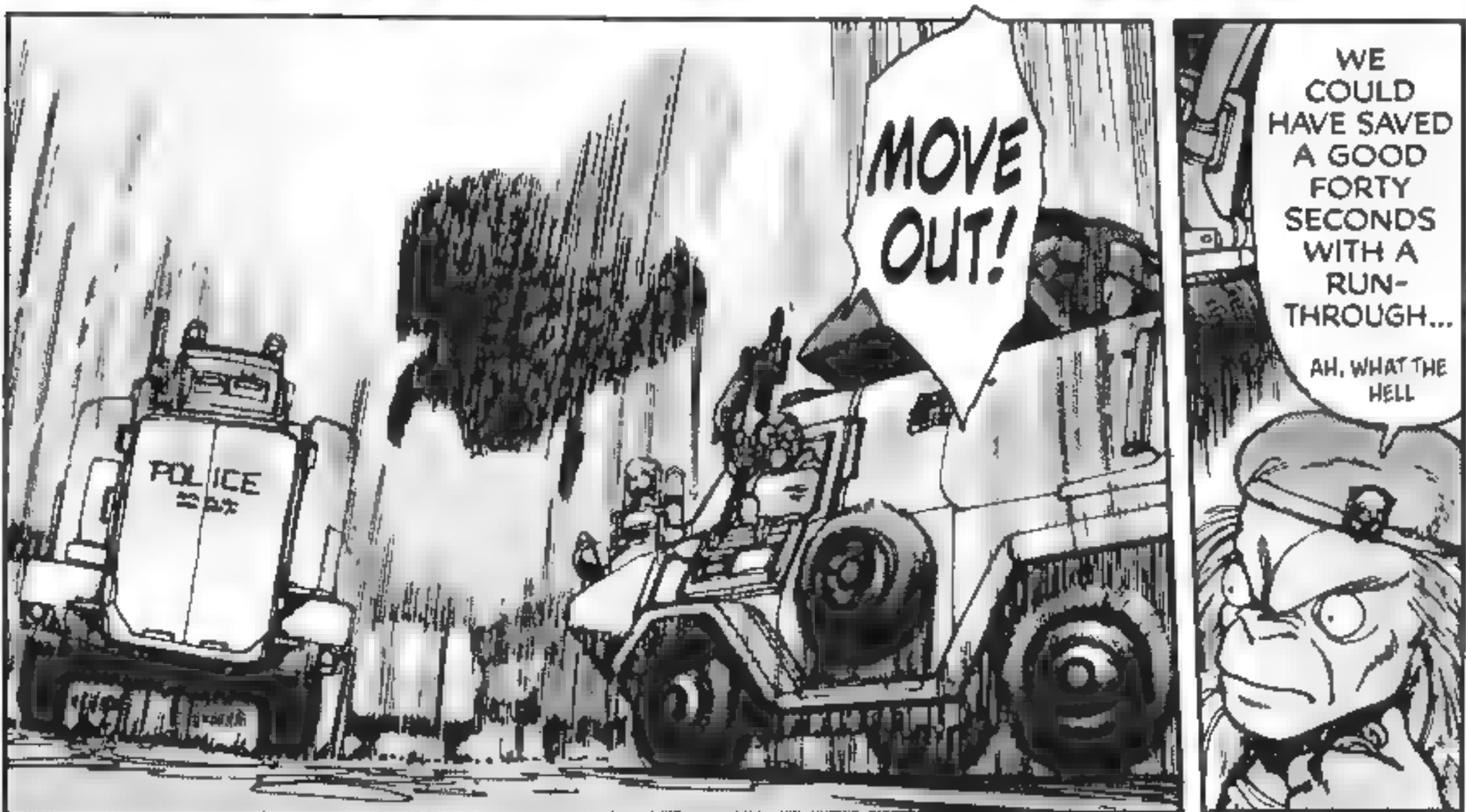
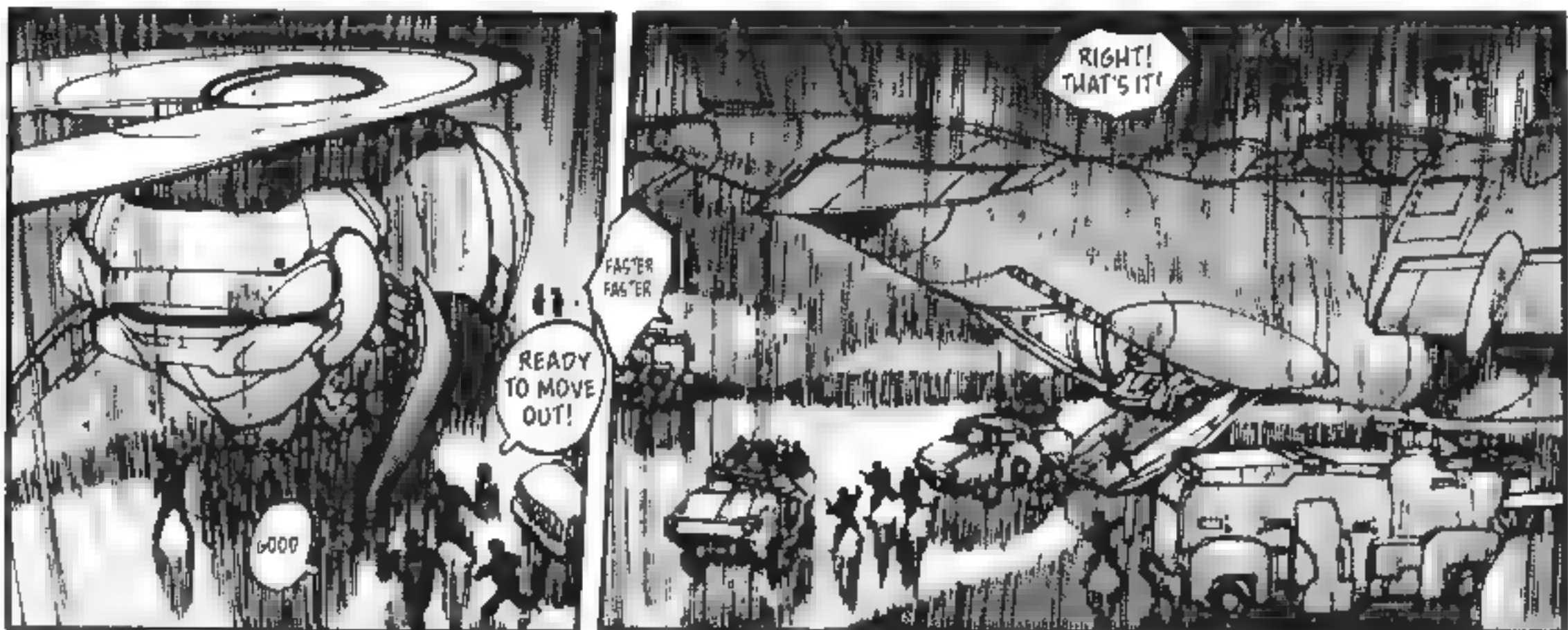
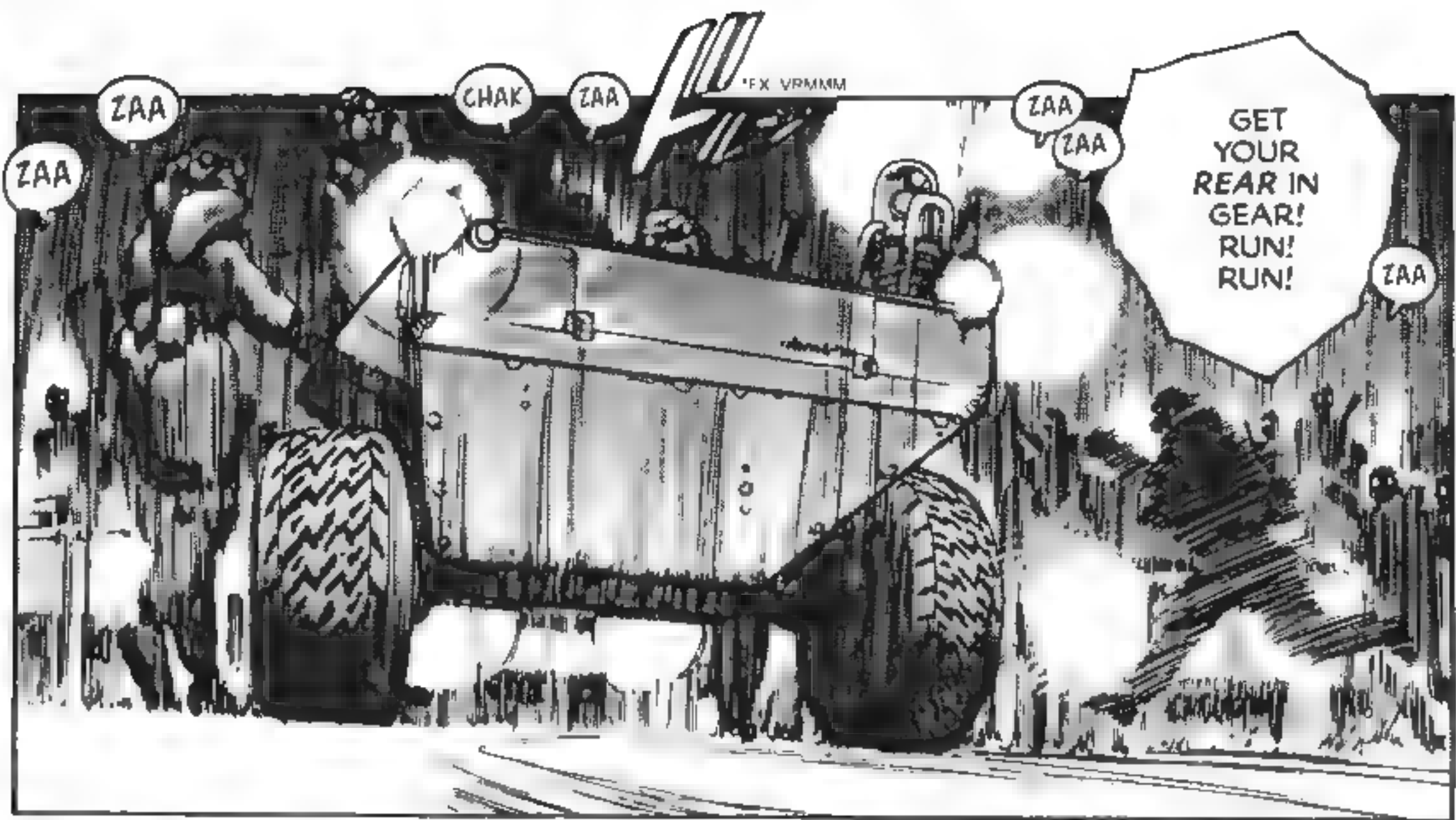


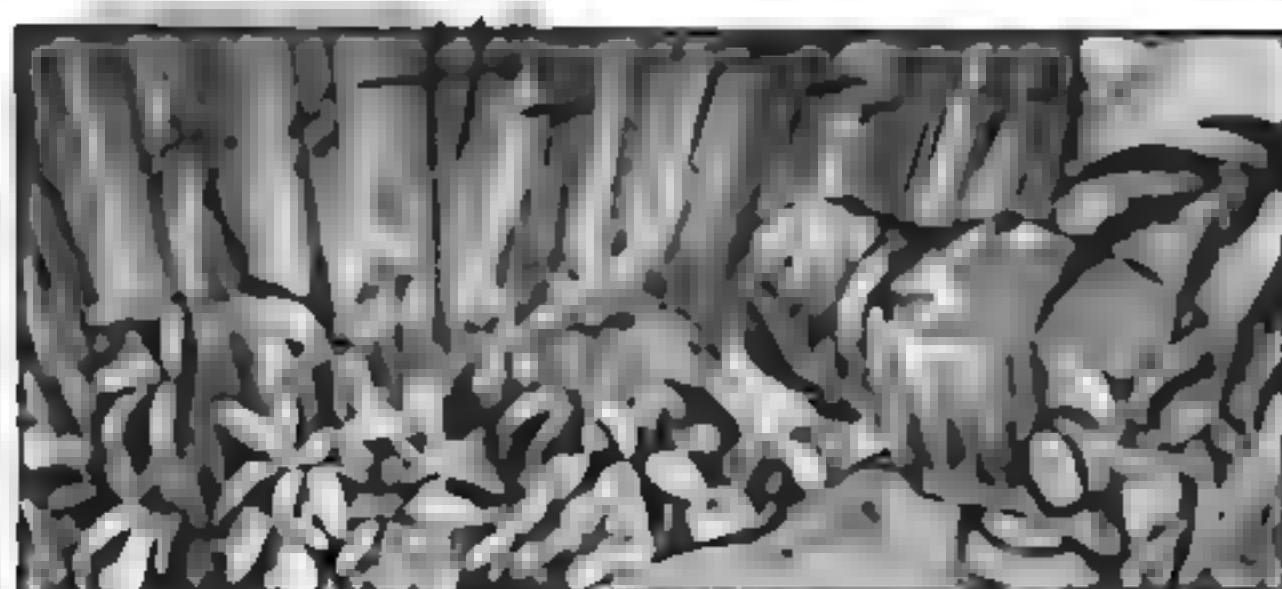
SHORT FOR ASSAULT FIGURE NO CONNECTION WITH THE FANGS OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC THE DUM NANCE OF ELF GABON INT NUES

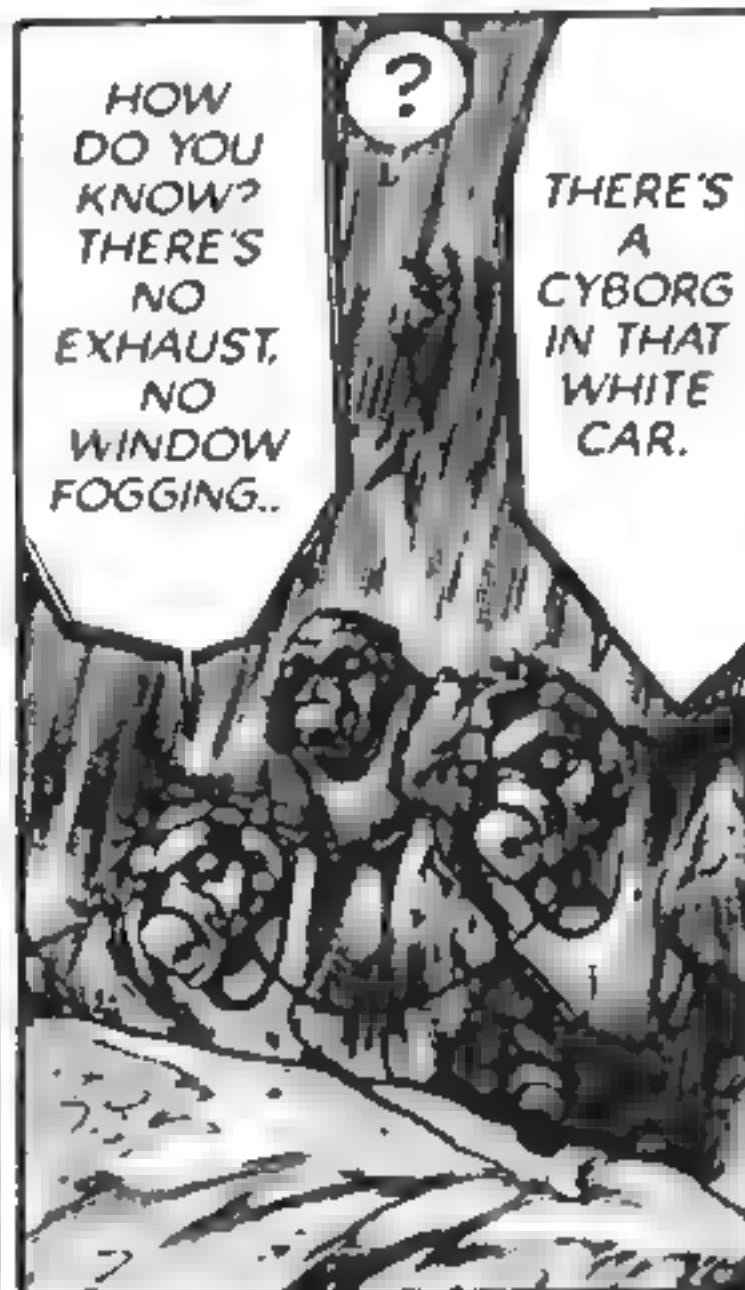
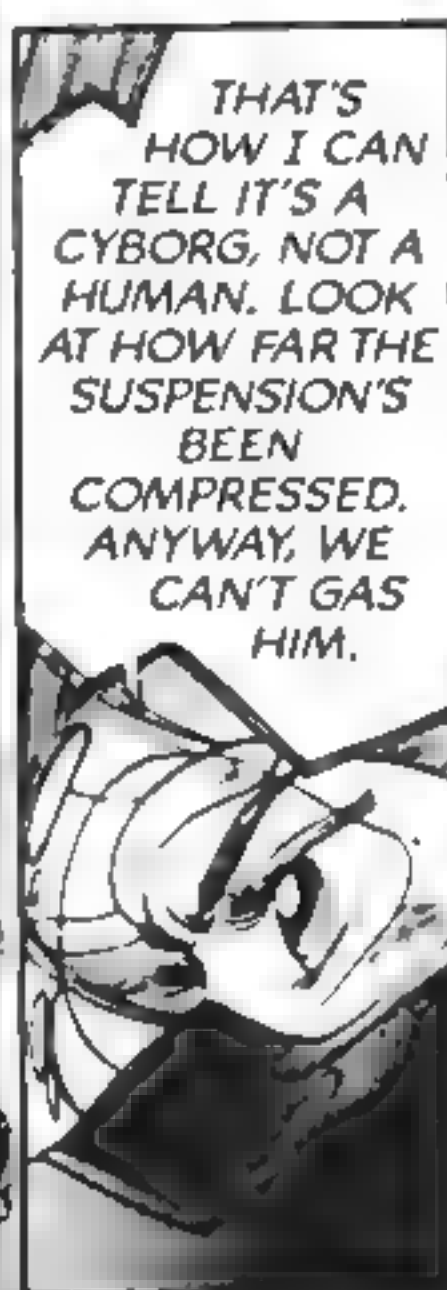
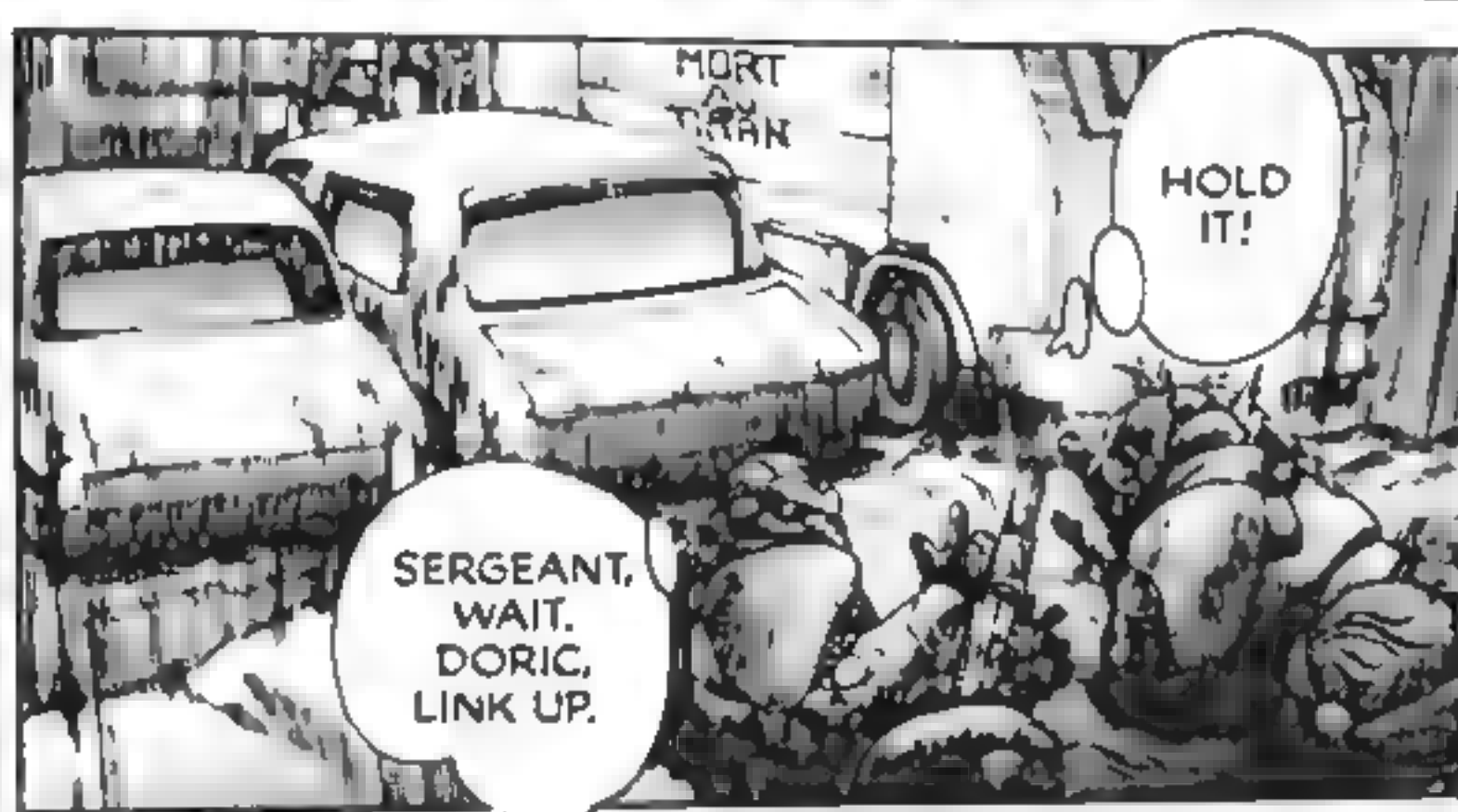
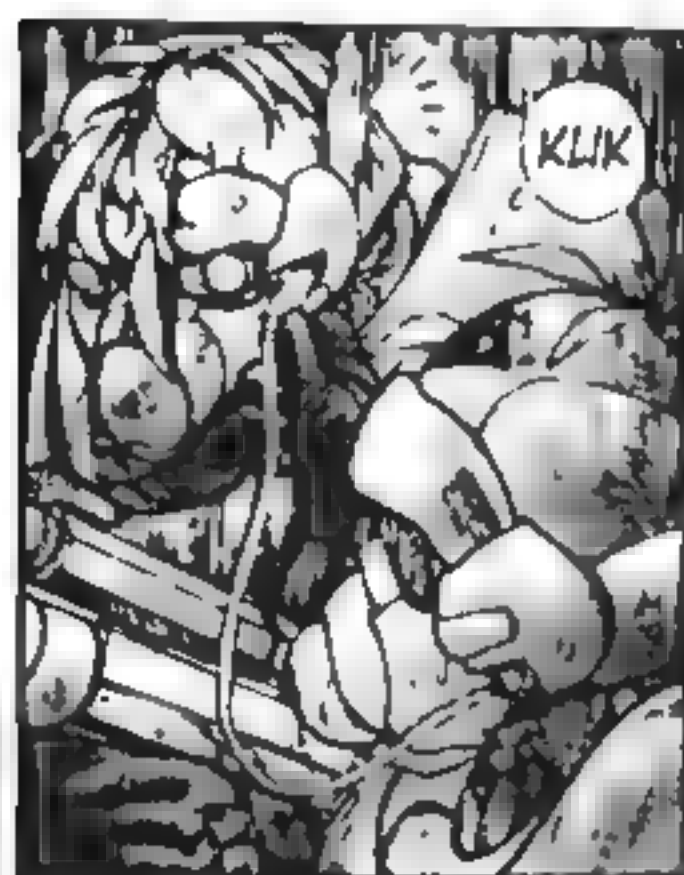


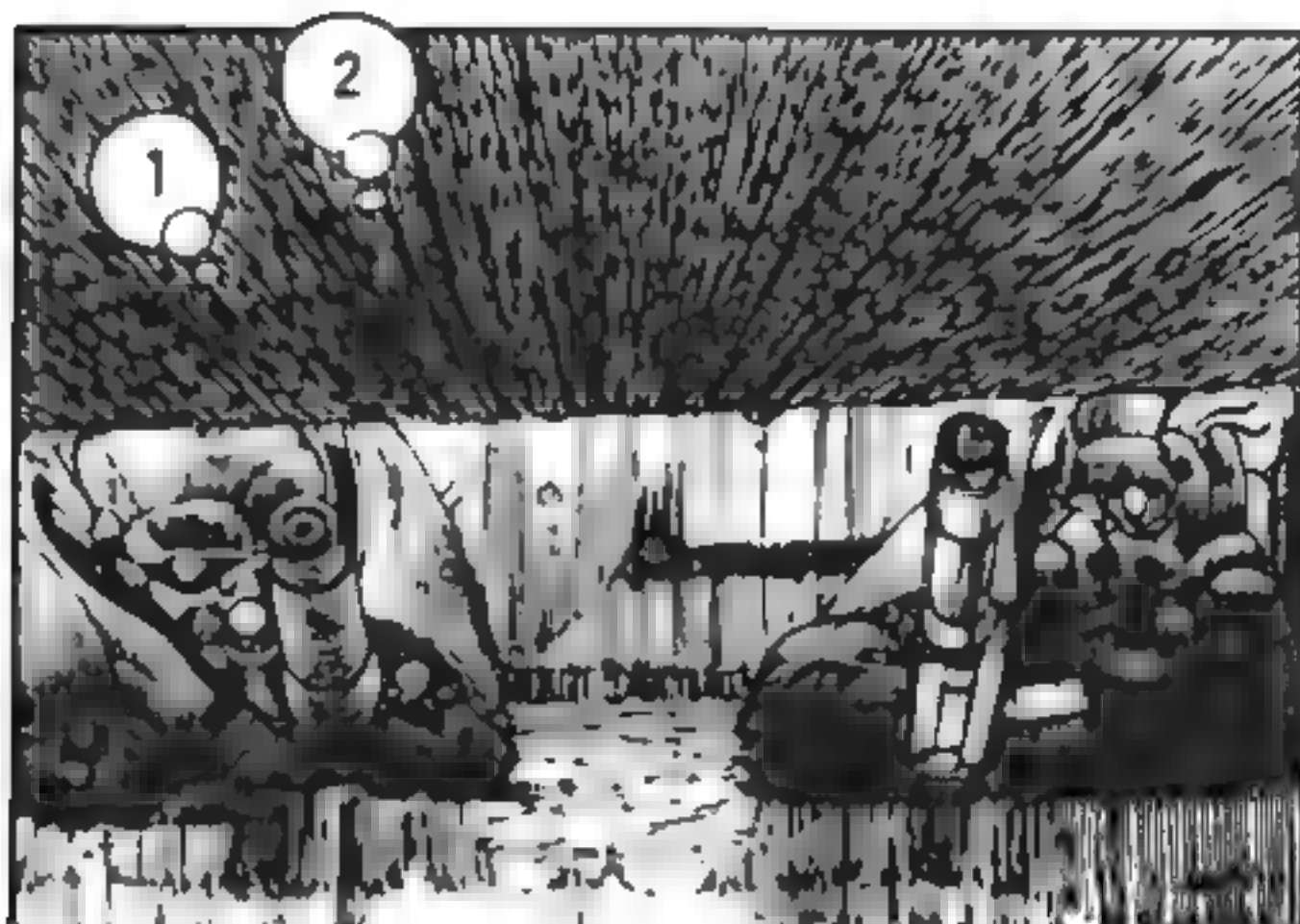












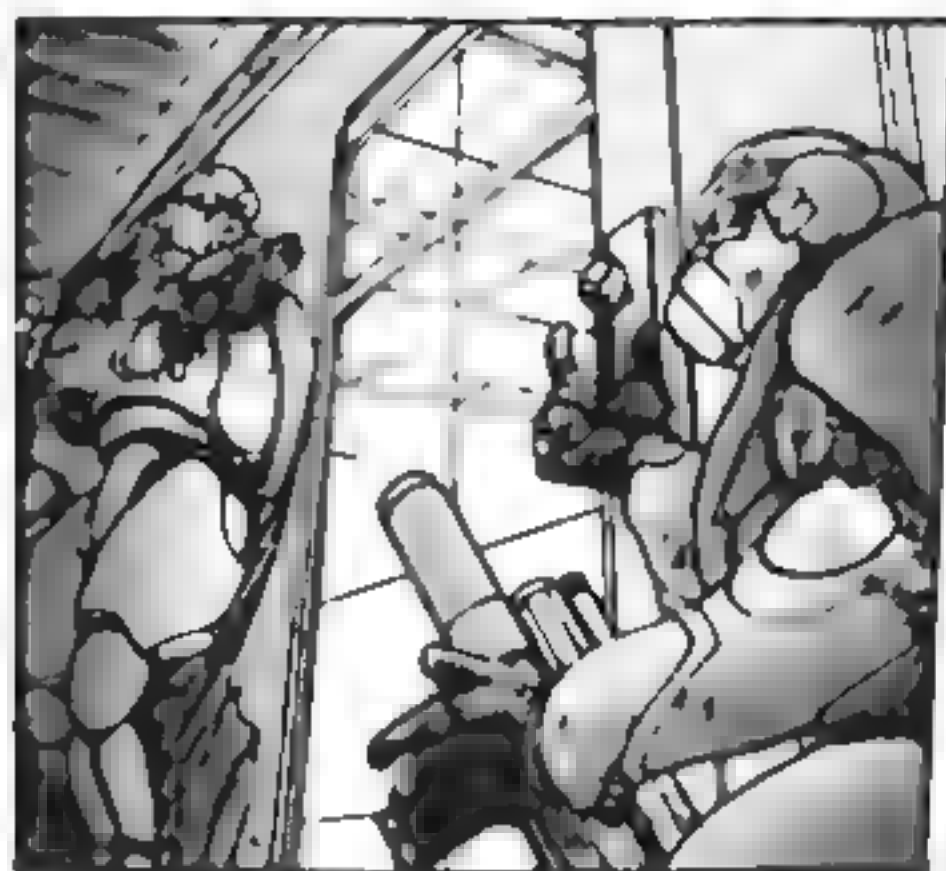
▲ Note Cyborgs are assumed to have radios built in—hence, no attempt at taking him alive

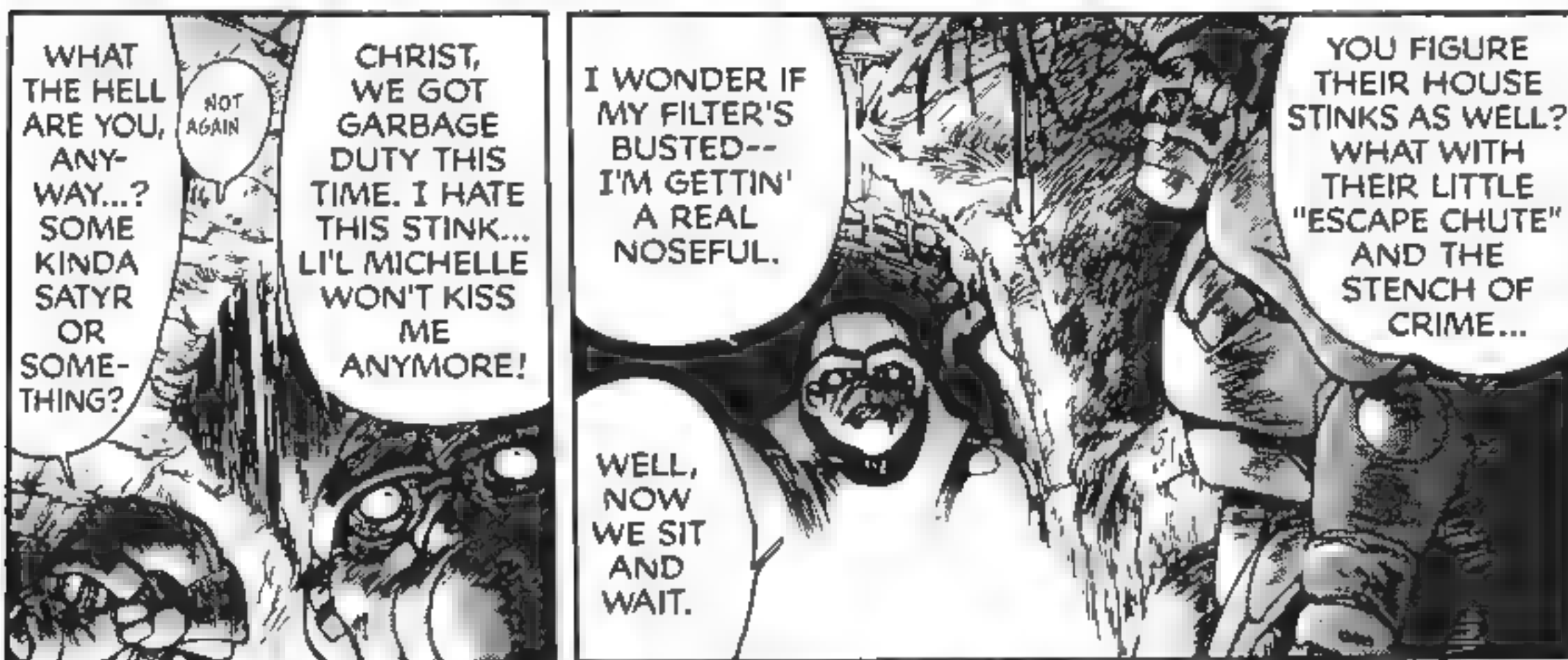


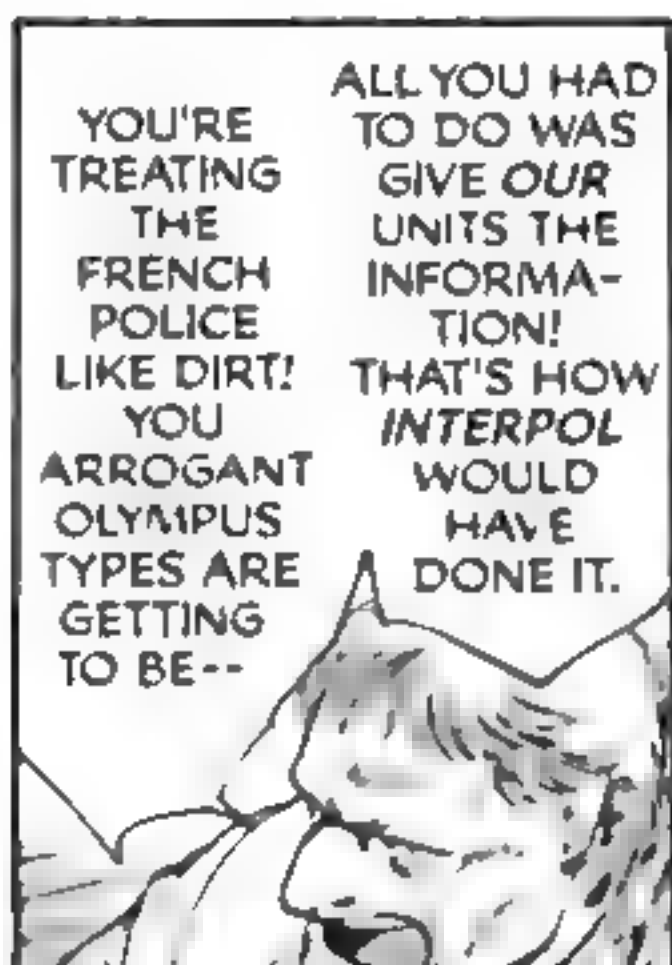
Note An A/S is the noise emitted by a physical event. Orcs are equipped to monitor their comrades for the sound of breaking armor.



▲ Note Following this op, a green beret cyborgs were required to have their heartbeats monitored. In contrast, the orc suits monitor acoustic signatures (A/S).



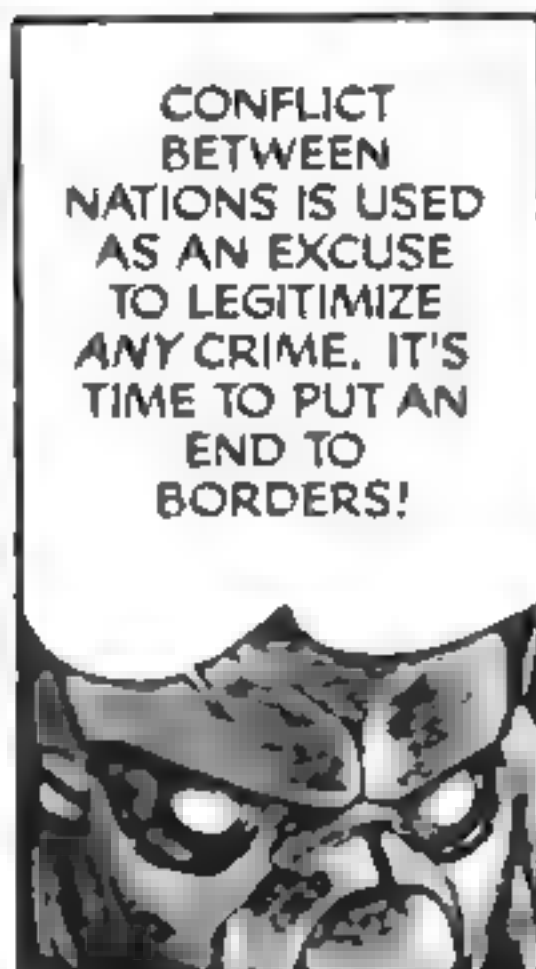
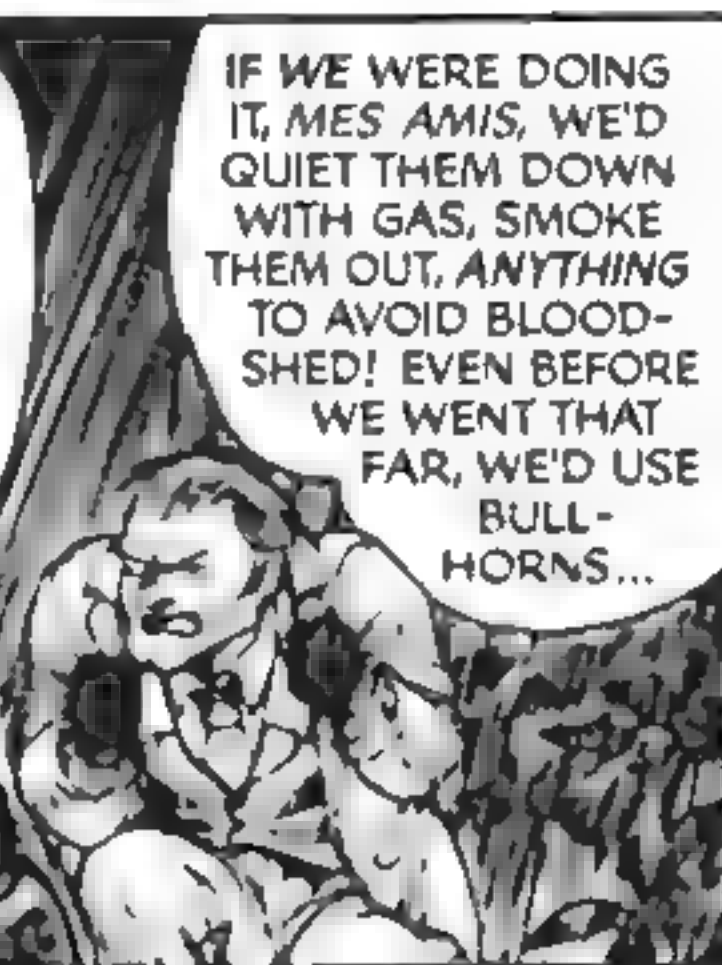




ALL YOU HAD
TO DO WAS
GIVE OUR
UNITS THE
INFORMA-
TION!
THAT'S HOW
INTERPOL
WOULD
HAVE
DONE IT.



THAT
SORT OF THING
DOESN'T WORK
WHEN YOU'RE
UP AGAINST
COMBAT
CYBORGS. IF
YOU DON'T
LIKE OUR
TACTICS ..









ANYONE STUPID ENOUGH TO JOIN THIS BUNCH DESERVES TO BE POUNDED INTO FERTILIZER! AT LEAST THAT WAY HE'D HELP FEED SOME REFUGEES!

IF HE ISN'T POISONOUS ANYWAY.

JUST TAKE HIM OUT QUICK AND CLEAN! HE'S ONLY A HIRELING FOR--

YEAH, WHAT?

HEY! HEY!

KRAK!

WHFF!

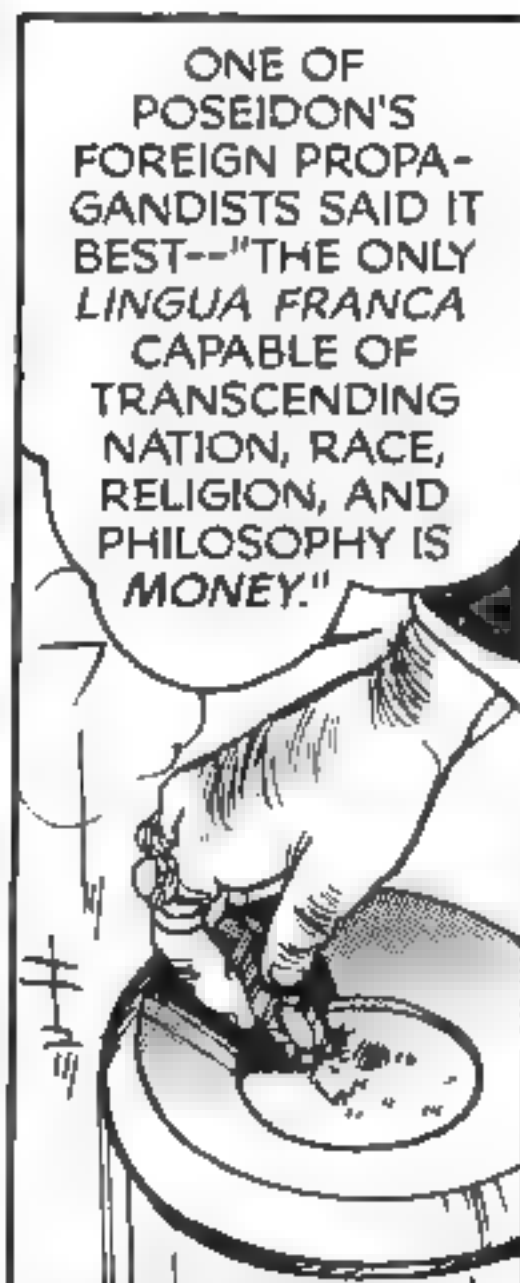
C2 CLEAR, ONE DEAD...

MY GUILT RUNS DEEPER THAN THE OCEAN. HEH, HEH.

CHECK OUT C4, THEN RUN BACKUP ON C12!

WHAT THE HELL'S WITH HER?! WEIRD LITTLE BRAT...MUST BE ON HER PERIOD.

WHAT'S SHE BEING SO HIGH AND MIGHTY ABOUT? FRIGID BITCH!



*FX. CHUFF CHUFF

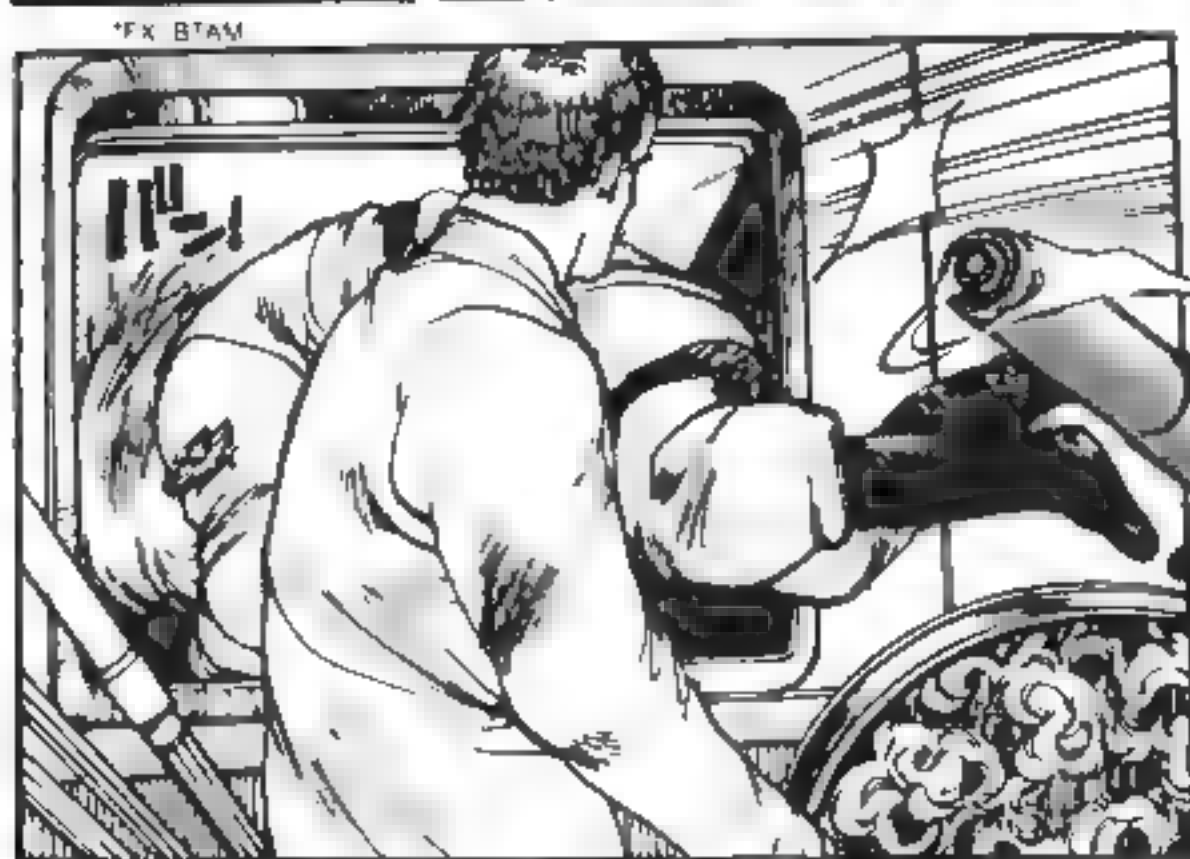
BUT AREN'T YOU CONCERNED THAT THIS MIGHT BRING THE ISLAMIC FEDERATION INTO THE FIGHTING? YOU CAN'T START GIVING THIS MUCH SUPPORT TO THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES AND NOT EXPECT RETALIATION. IN ANY CASE, I UNDERSTAND THE PARTICIPATION OF CENTRAL AMERICA HAS LEFT YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE VIS-A-VIS THE FEDERATED U.S.S.R., IS THIS REALLY WISE?



I'M SURE MR. PRESIDENT WILL BE DELIGHTED. RIGHT NOW, NEITHER WE IN ISRAEL NOR FRANCE HAVE THE LEEWAY TO HELP THE P.L.O....

IF YOU'RE IN A HURRY, WE CAN USE THE DIPLOMATIC ROUTE. WE'RE MOVING \$700 MILLION THROUGH MIAMI ALONE--THAT'S MORE THAN OUR DEPARTMENT'S ENTIRE TAKE. PERHAPS IF YOU TALK DIRECTLY WITH POSEIDON...







C6 M1--
SEVEN
DOWN THREE
DEAD.

HANDS
OVER YOUR
HEAD! UP
AGAINST
THE WALL!

--WATCH
TO C5--



WHA?!



HEY, HEY! I JUST
THOUGHT OF
SOMETHING MAJOR!
IF WE DON'T GET
THESE SUITS REALLY
CLEAN, THEY AREN'T
GONNA LET US
BACK ON THE
PLANE!

Y'KNOW,
I JUST
WANTED
TO HAVE
SOME
KINDA
EFFECT
ON THE
WORLD
SITUA-
TION...

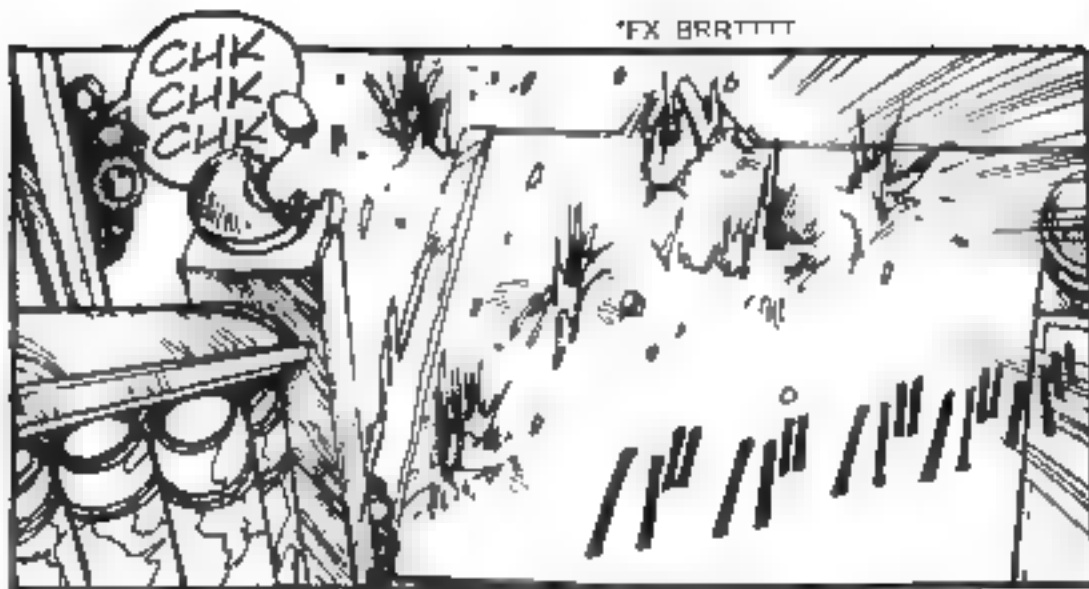
CHRIST WHAT
A ST NK!

HN?

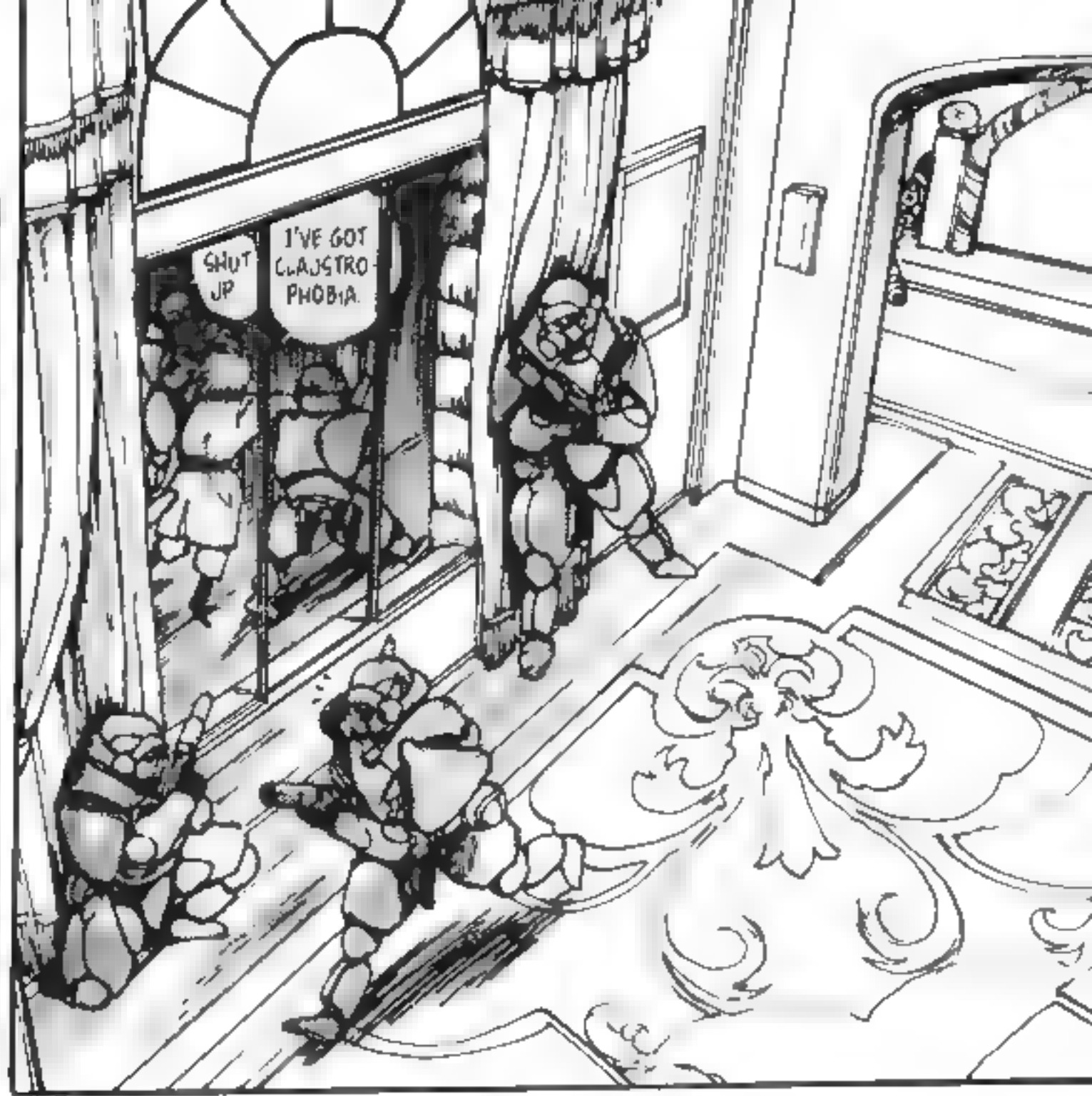


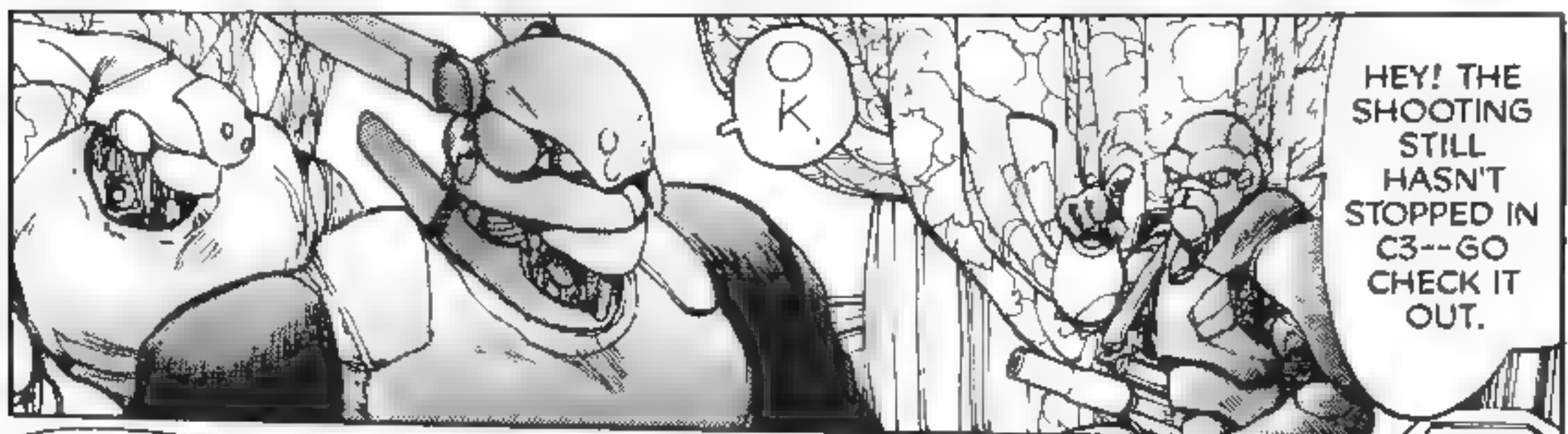
WELL,
WHADDAYA
KNOW--
CLASS "A"
GARBAGE!

C5 B5 -
ONE
DOWN

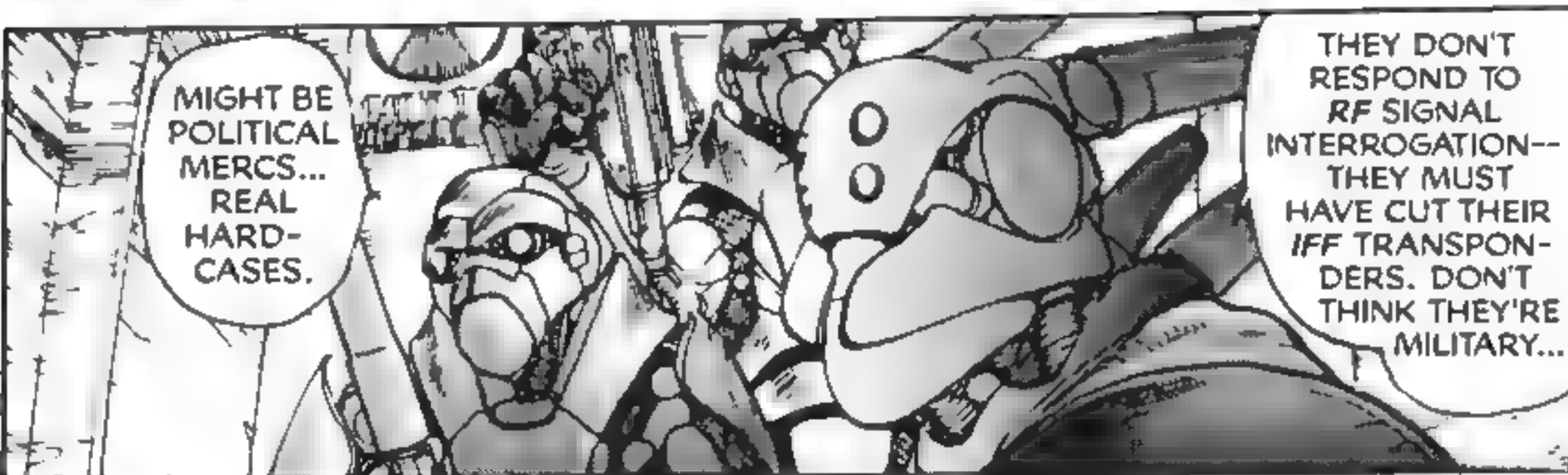
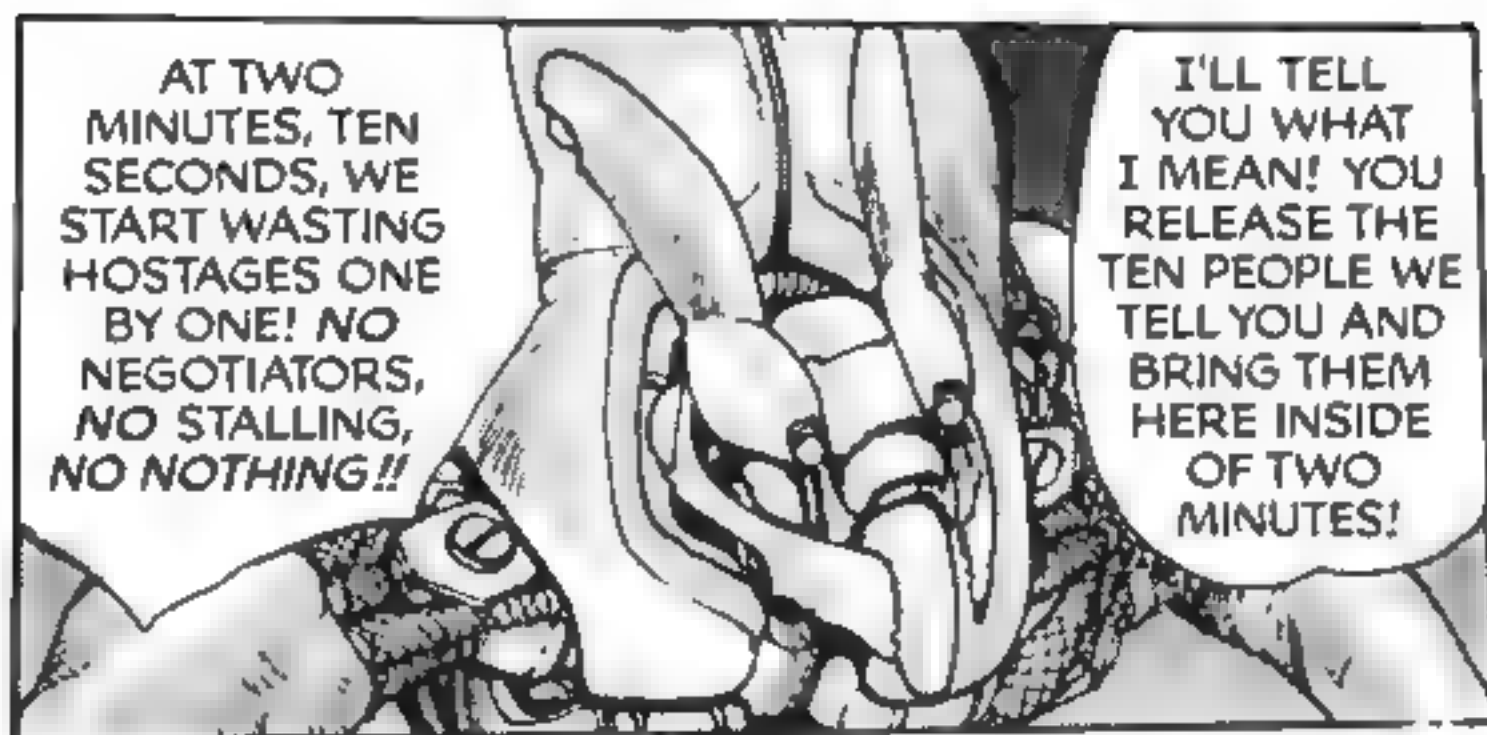












TELL YA WHAT...
WE'LL SAVE YOU
THE TROUBLE OF
CHECKIN' ON
THOSE VOICES.
WE'LL JUST CRUSH
UP A COUPLE OF
THE HOSTAGES
AND CHUCK 'EM
OUT TO YOU...
SEE IF THAT'S
REAL, MAN!

WE'VE
GOT PLENTY
TO SPARE
SO QUIT
SCREWIN'
AROUND!

WHY
DON'T YOU
ASK GOD
FOR HELP,
HUH?!

SKRK
SKRK

AT LEAST
GIVE US TIME
TO CONFIRM
THAT THOSE
ARE REAL
VOICES AND
NOT A
RECORDING!

OLYMPUS
POLICE
ESWAT

GEEZ,
I...

WHAT
THE
HELL'S
THAT?

SOUNDS
GOOD
TO ME.

THERE'S NO
WAY THEY CAN
GET AWAY WITH
THAT MANY
HOSTAGES. WE
SHOULD JUST LET
THEM GO, LOOK
FOR AN OPEN-
ING...

OLYMPUS
POLICE
ESWAT

WELL,
WELL...
GLAD
I CAME
OUT
FOR A
LOOK.

NICE
NIGHT,
EH?

SHIT!

HEY, THE
GANG'S
ALL HERE!
HOWDY
DO,
BOYS!

"ZASH"



HOLD IT!

WE'LL DIS-MANTLE YOU, ASS-HOLE!

DON'T SHOOT!

KCHAK

KCHAK



YEAH, I HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU GUYS... KEEP ADDING ON TERMINALS AND YOU CAN RUN A GODDAMN AIRCRAFT CARRIER BY YOURSELVES. THE MONSTER WITH AN OCTOPUS BRAIN-STEM.

ALL THOSE ATTACHMENTS... YOU MUST BE A HECATON-CHIRES.



ALL RIGHT, YOU JERKS! DISMANTLE HIM!



SON OF A BITCH PROBABLY HAS AN AUGMENTED BRAIN. YOU GUYS DISMANTLE HIM AND WE'LL LET HALF THE HOSTAGES GO.

LOOK, THIS GUY'S NOT YOUR NORMAL FREAK.



FOUR!



I'M GONNA COUNT DOWN FROM FIVE.



THEY'VE GOT A HECATON-CHIRES. I'M GONNA SCRAP HIM.

DON'T HANG AROUND OUT THERE, PAN-HEIMER!



I'LL
SHOW YOU
HOW TO
NEGOTIATE!

HER
AGAIN??

HEY!

WATCH
THIS...

*FX CHIK

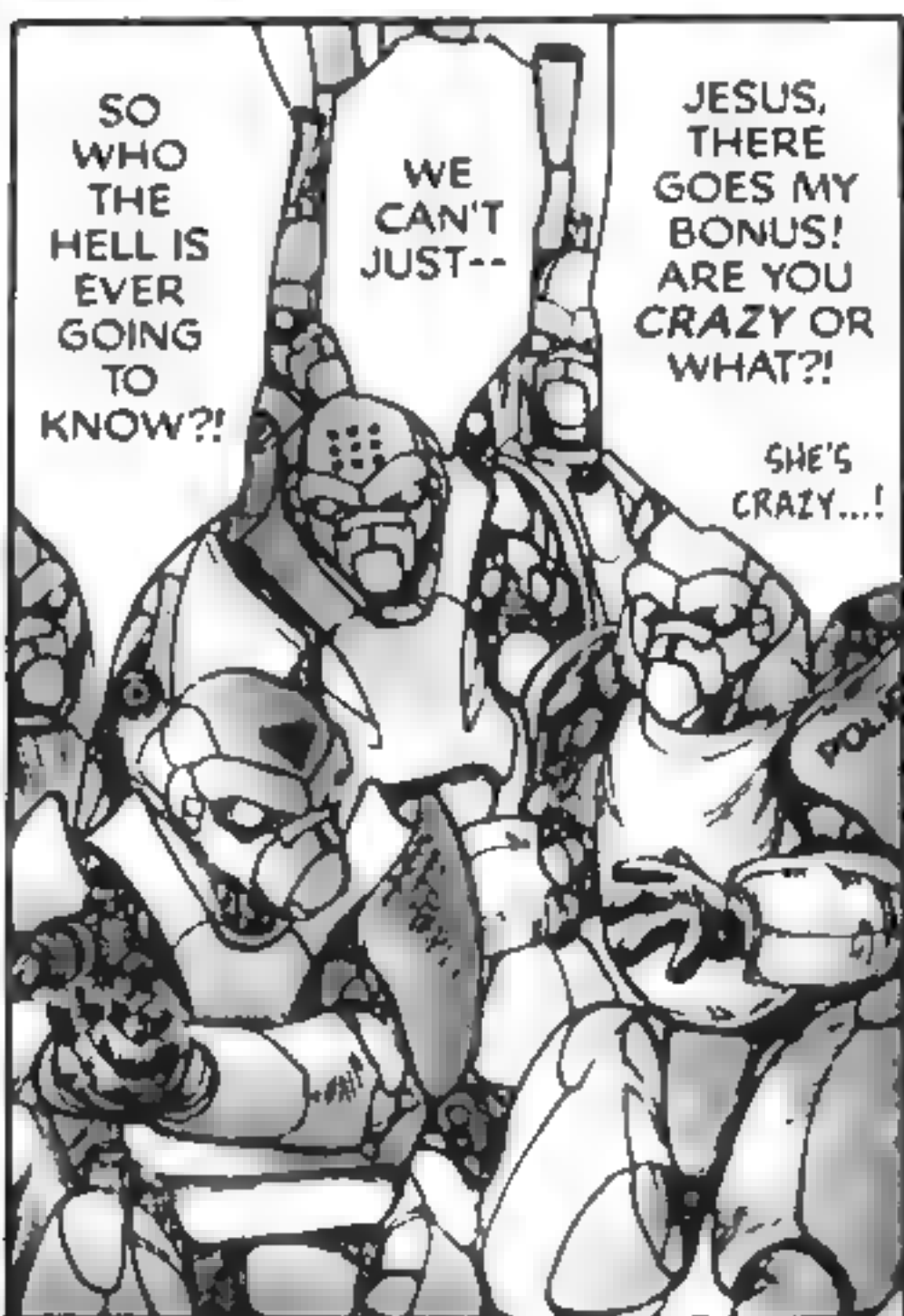


JUST
HOLD
ON A
SECOND--
YOU
GUYS ARE
SCREWING
UP!



THAT'S
WHAT
I CALL
AN
EXCHANGE!

RELEASE
ALL THE
HOSTAGES
RIGHT
GODDAMN
NOW, AND
MAYBE WE
WON'T KILL YOU
TWO SHIT-
HEELS!!



SO
WHO
THE
HELL IS
EVER
GOING
TO
KNOW?!

WE
CAN'T
JUST--

JESUS,
THERE
GOES MY
BONUS!
ARE YOU
CRAZY OR
WHAT?!

SHE'S
CRAZY...!



SHOOT
ME AND
FIFTY
HOSTAGES
ARE DEAD
MEAT, YOU
GOT IT?

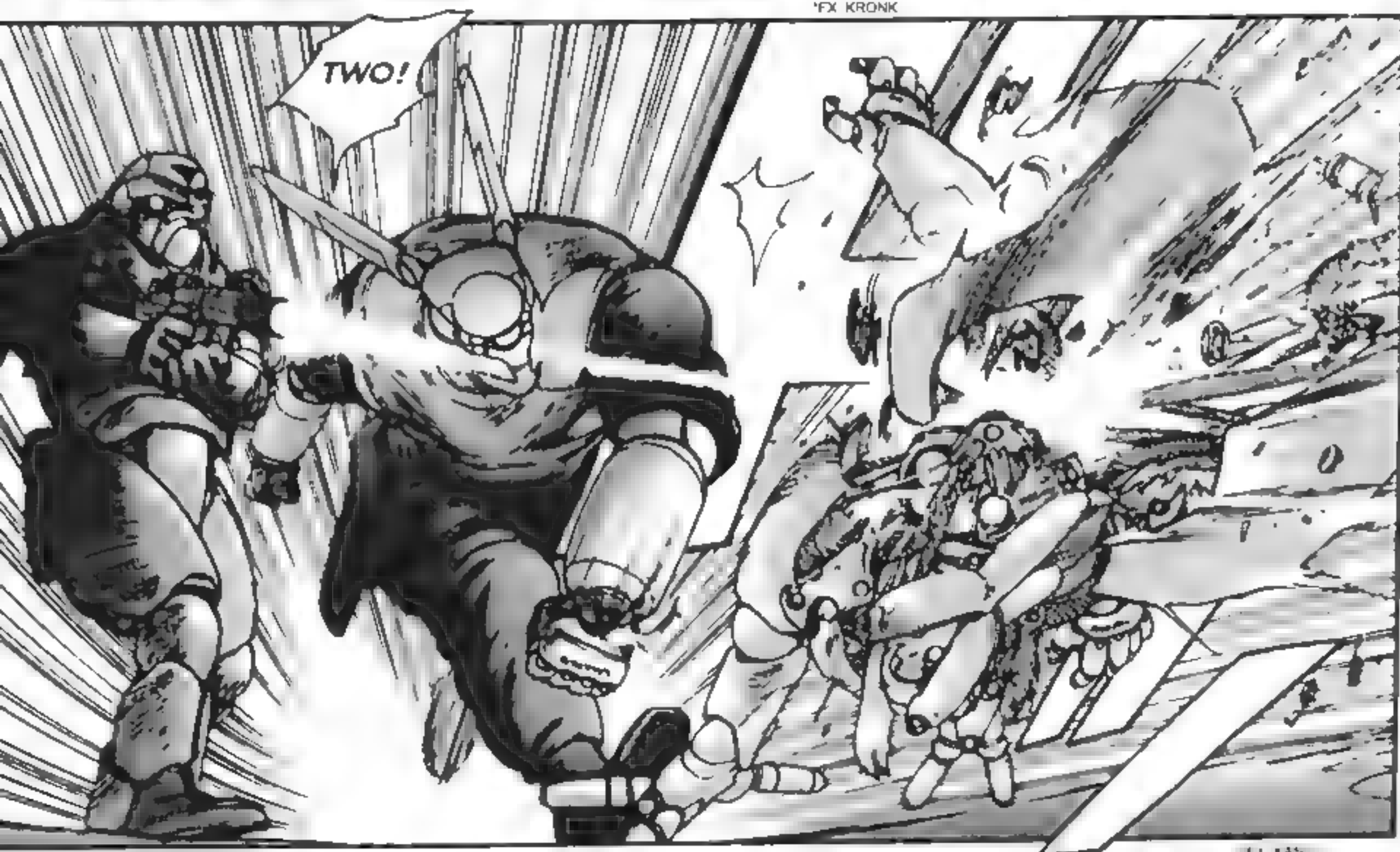
DON'T
GIVE ME
THAT
CRAP,
DARLIN'.

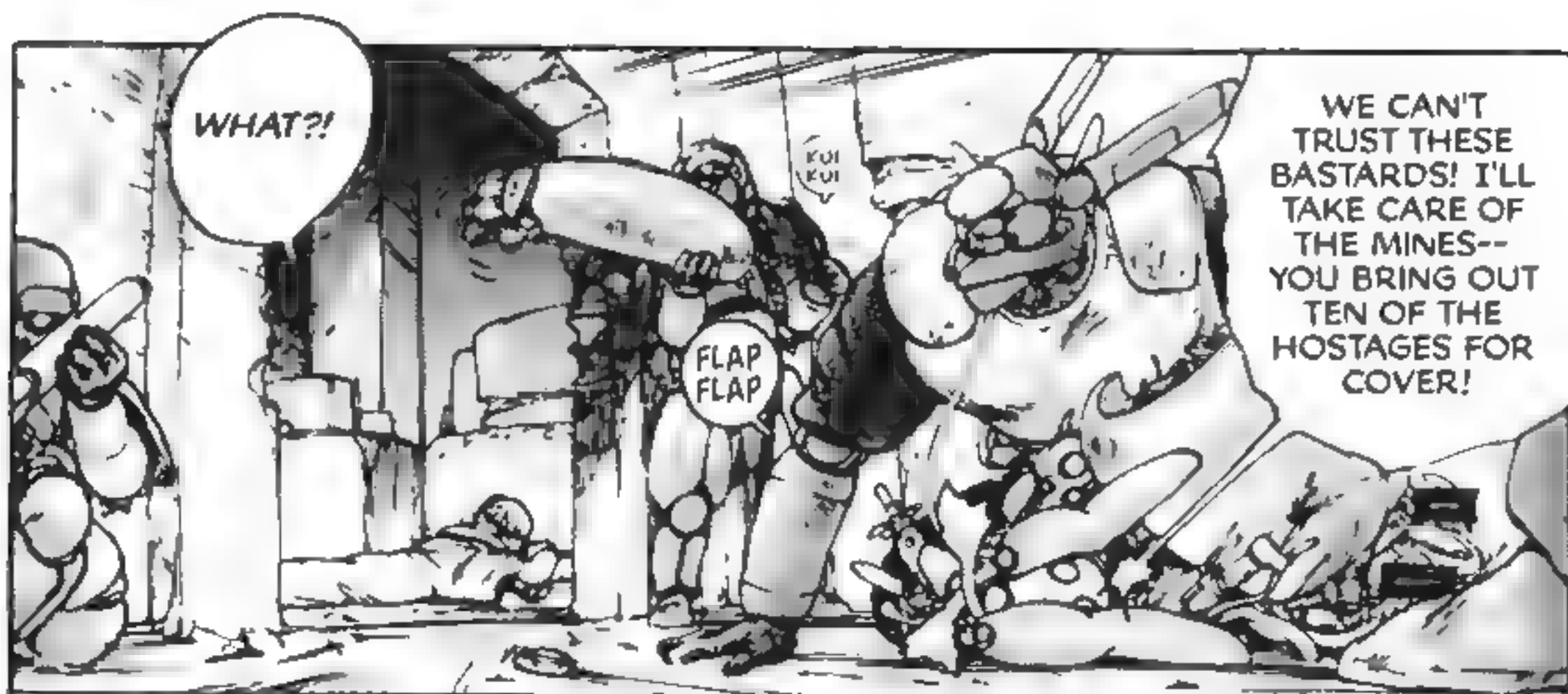


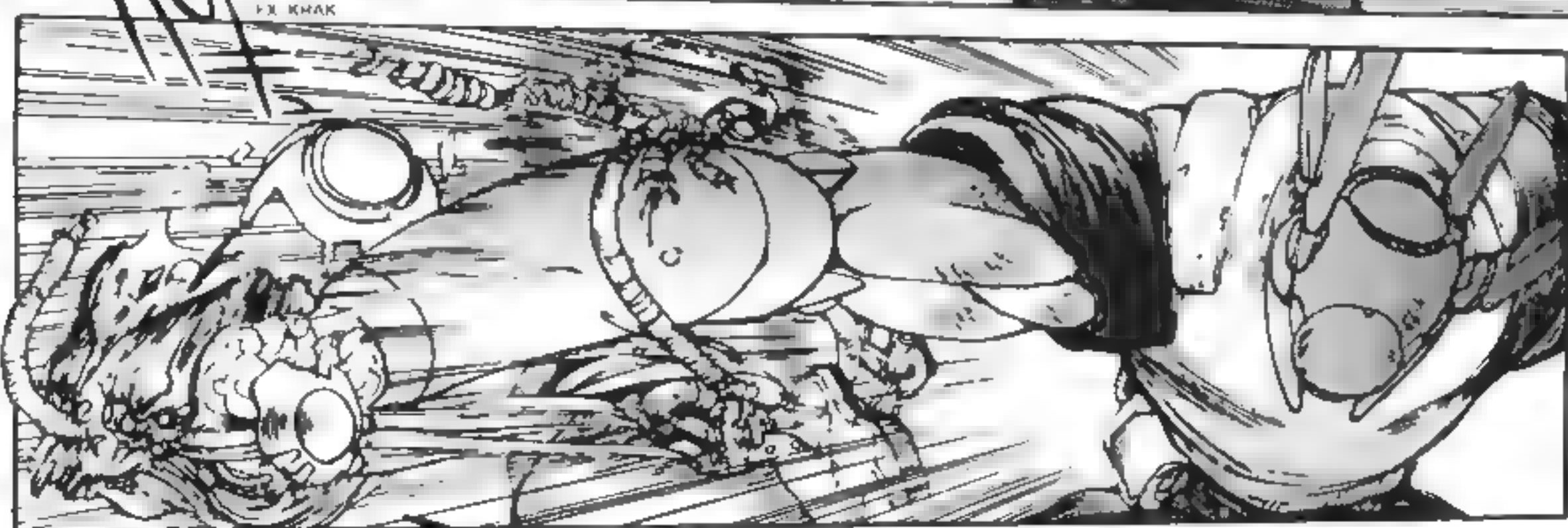
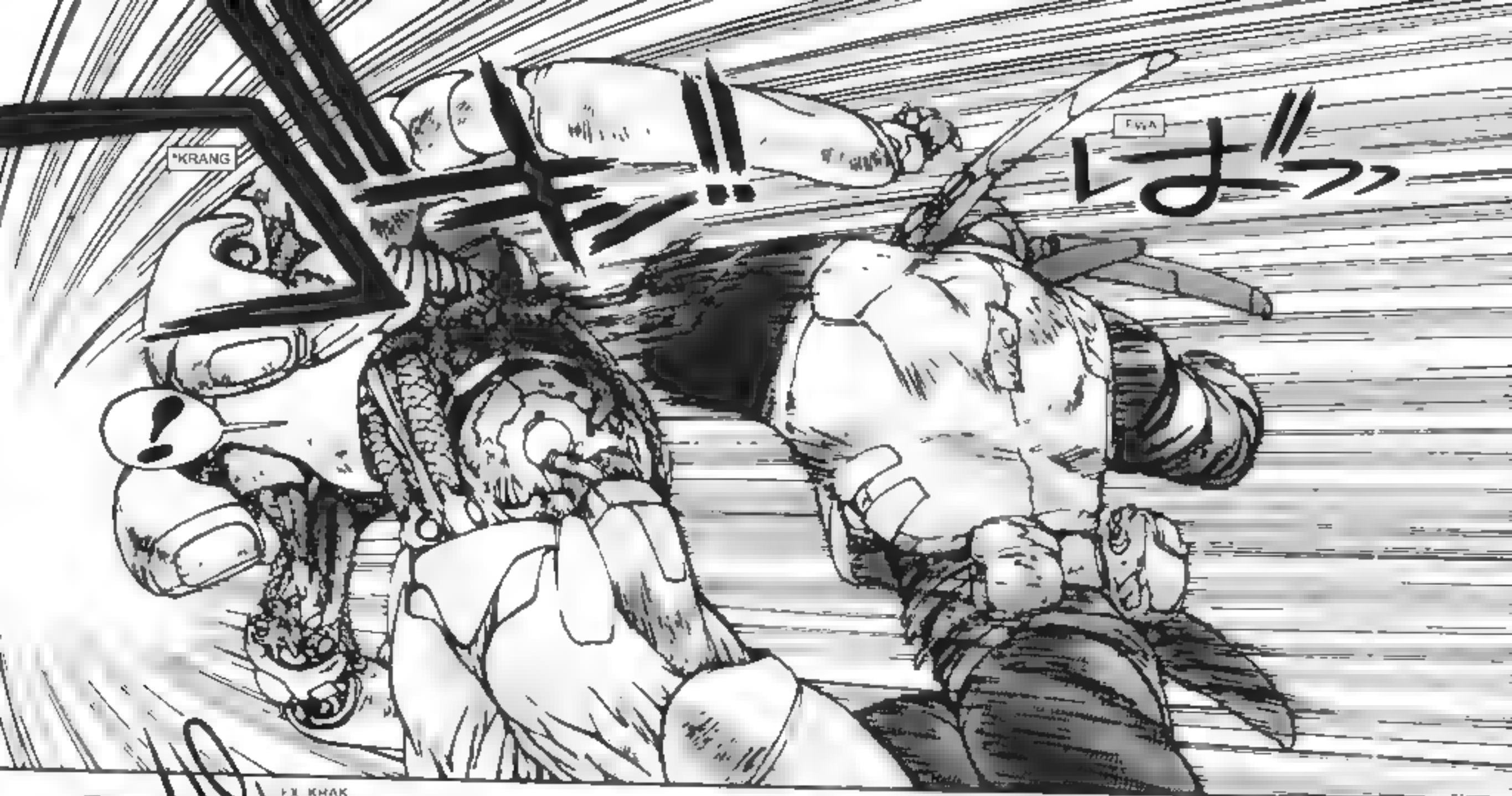
GO AHEAD,
AND YOU DIE.
OR YOU CAN
RELEASE
THEM AND
BEG FOR
YOUR LIVES,
AND WE
MIGHT LET
YOU SEE
TOMORROW.

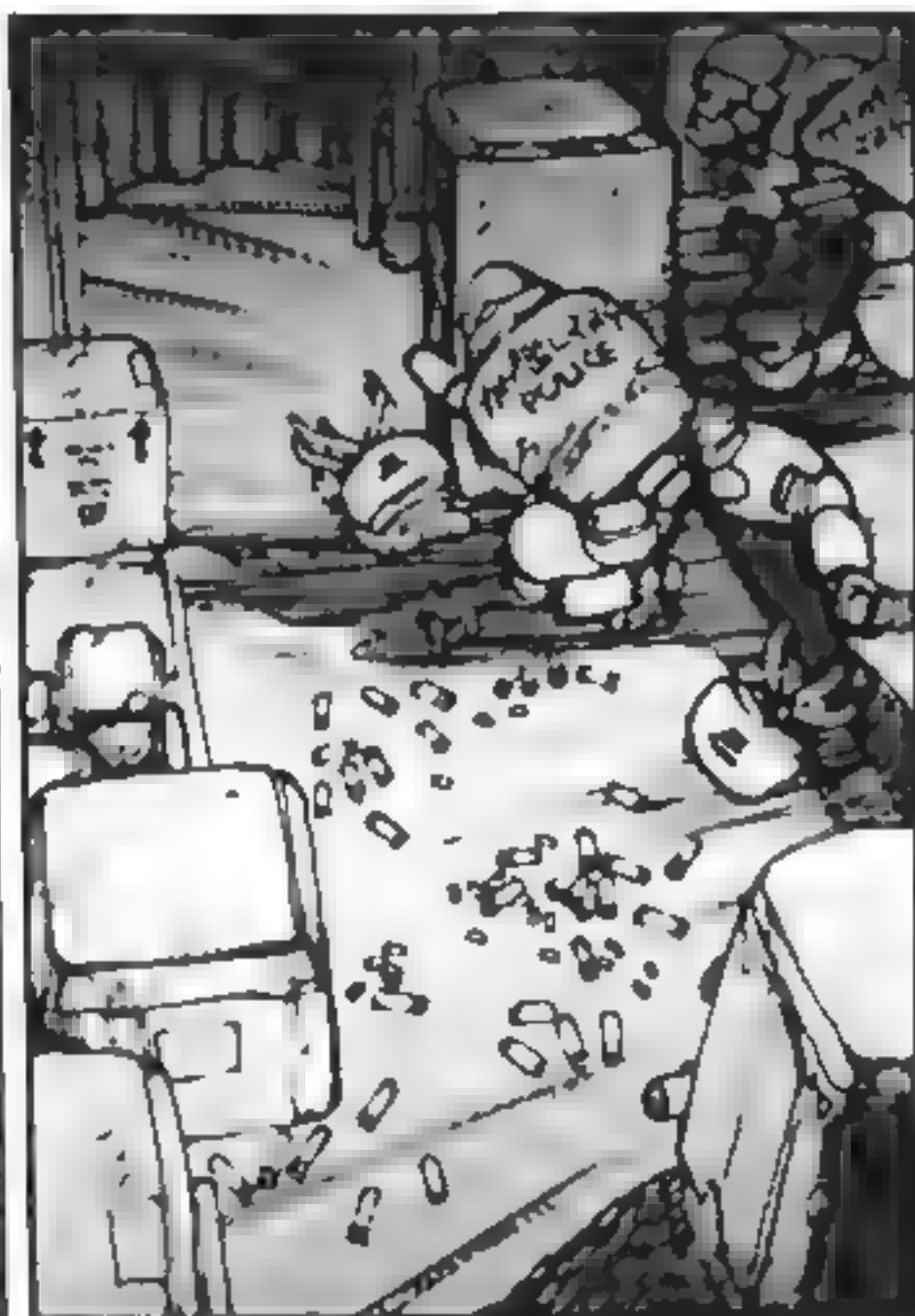
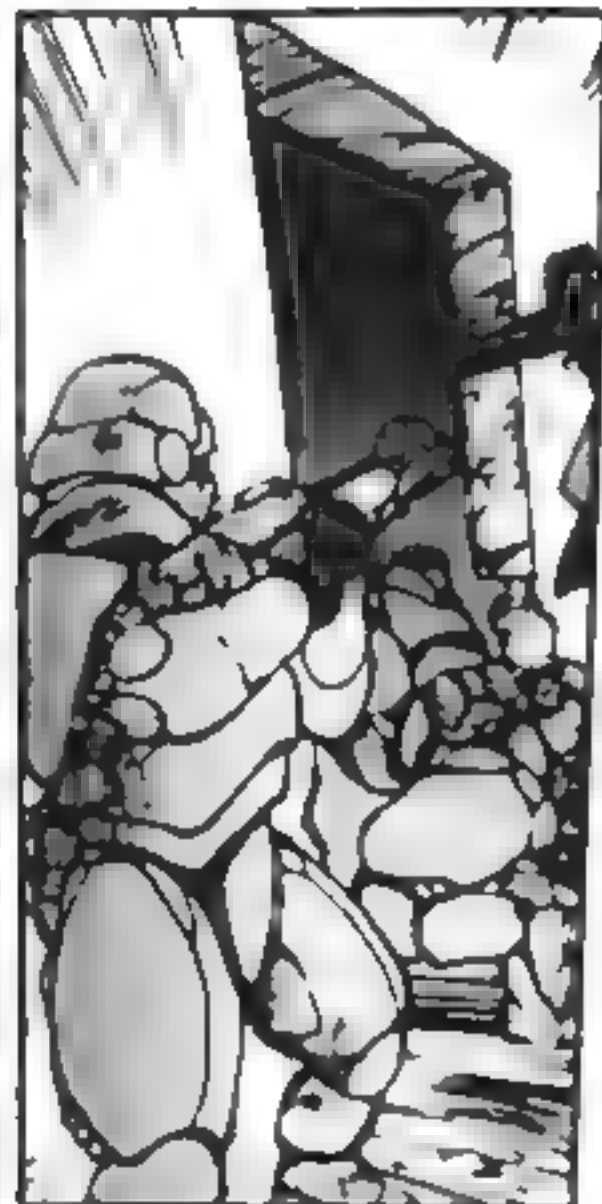
-HFF-

THIS ASSAULT'S
A BLACK OP--
TOTALLY
DENIABLE. AND
WE ALREADY GOT
WHAT WE CAME
FOR. SO YOU
WANT TO BLOW
AWAY THE
HOSTAGES...?











*FX BOMF

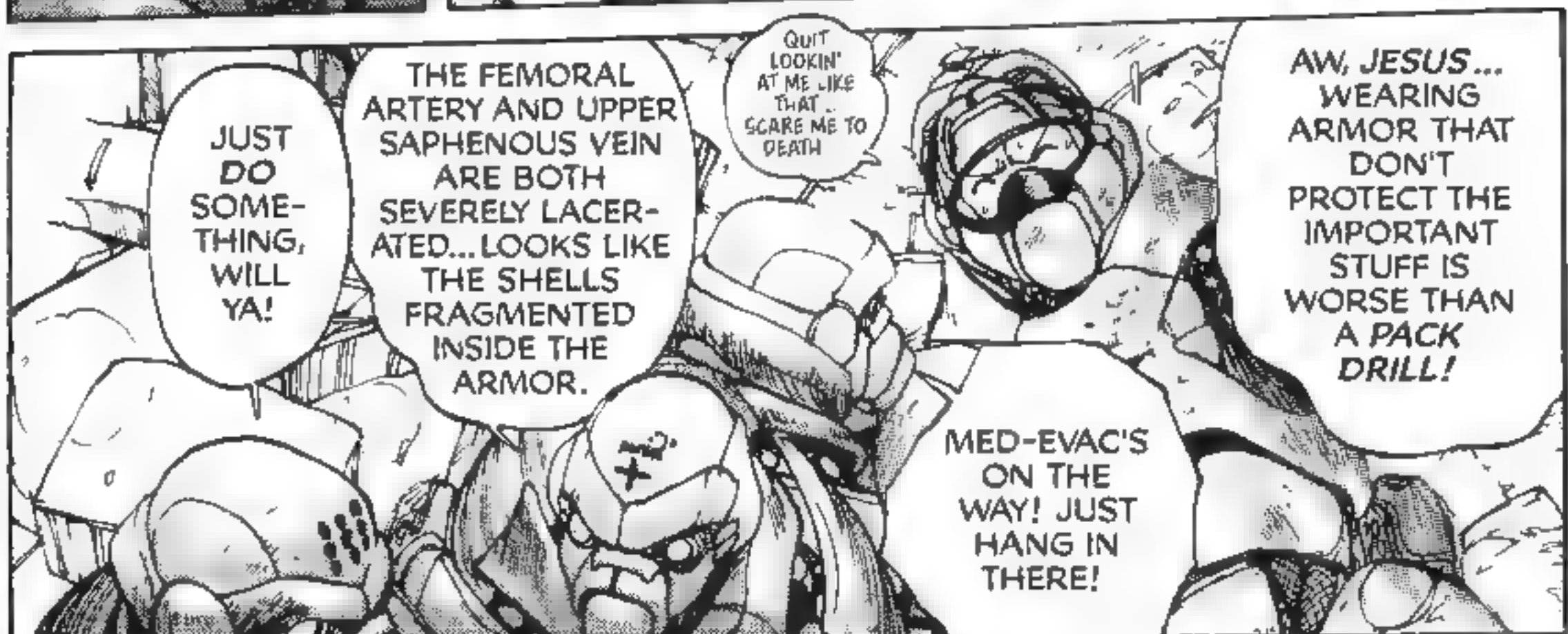
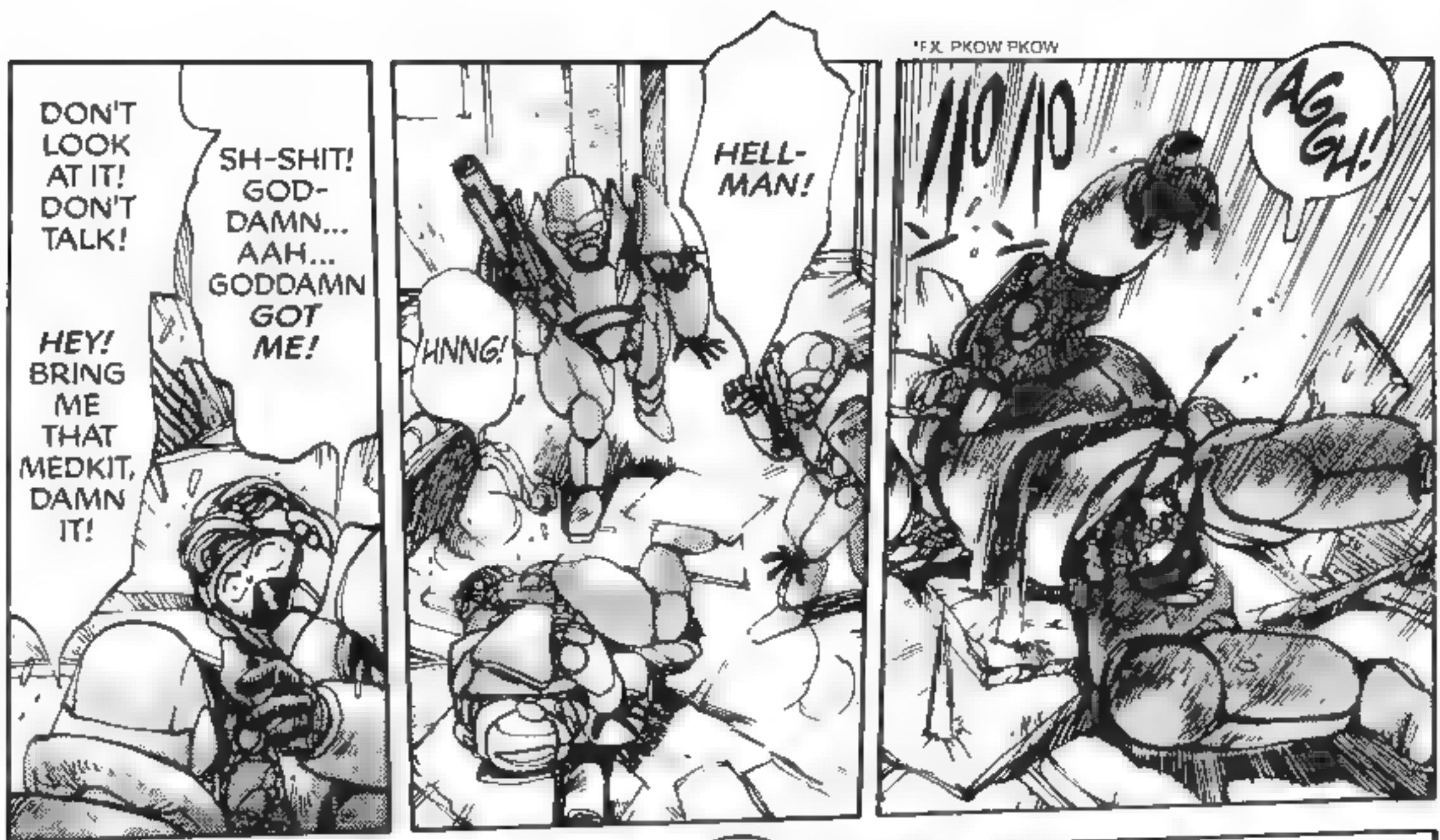
*FX BOMF

FX BANG



*FX PKOW PKOW PKOW





*FX: FWAK



*FX: WHKOOM



*FX: KRAK KRAK

*FX: PRAK *FX: GTONK



DON'T WORRY... THE GUY WHO SET THOSE TRAPS IS ABOUT TO "VOLUNTEER" TO DISARM THEM.

WHY DON'T WE USE A FLAME-THROWER?

MIGHT BE AN AMMO DUMP HERE Y'KNOW.



THOSE GUYS ARE MAKIN' US LOOK LIKE IDIOTS!

WHA... WHAT THE HELL?! SON OF A BITCH!!

SPRAK



YOU'RE A CLEVER BASTARD... THIS AIN'T FAIR, DAMN IT!

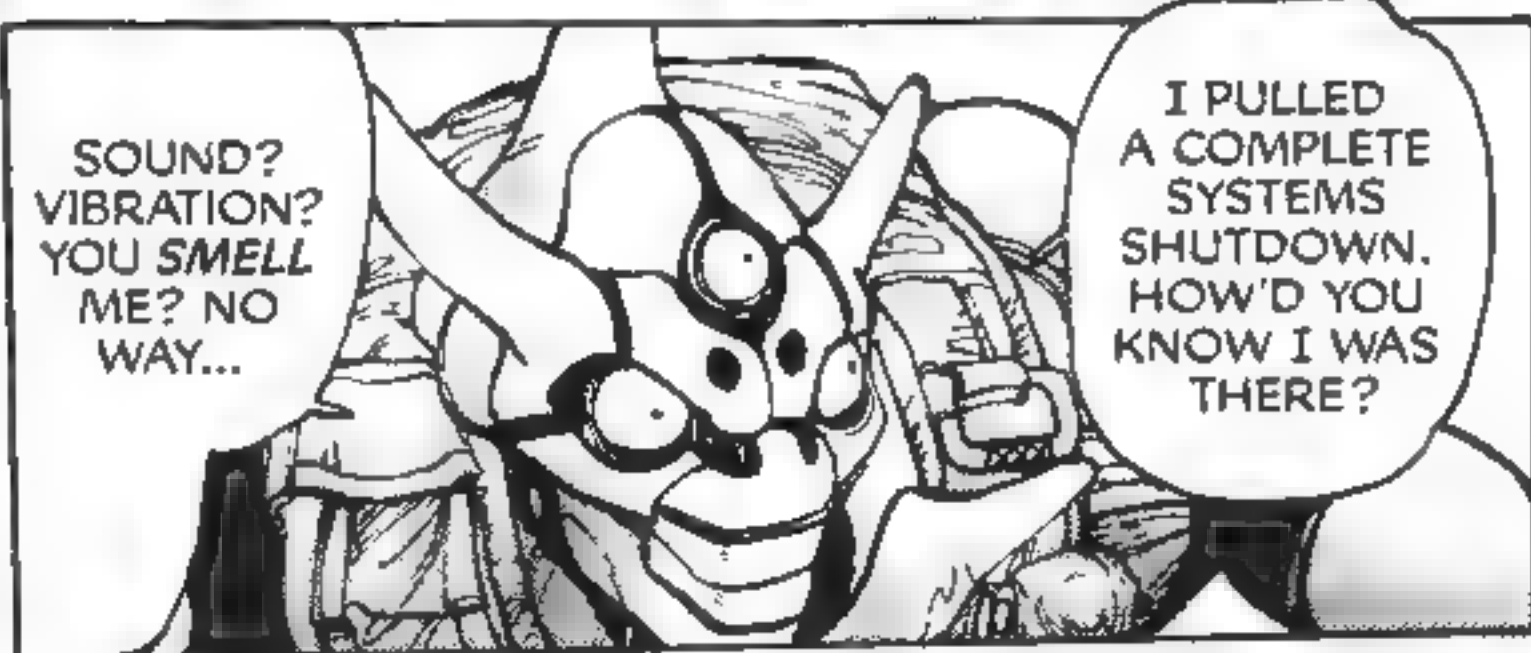
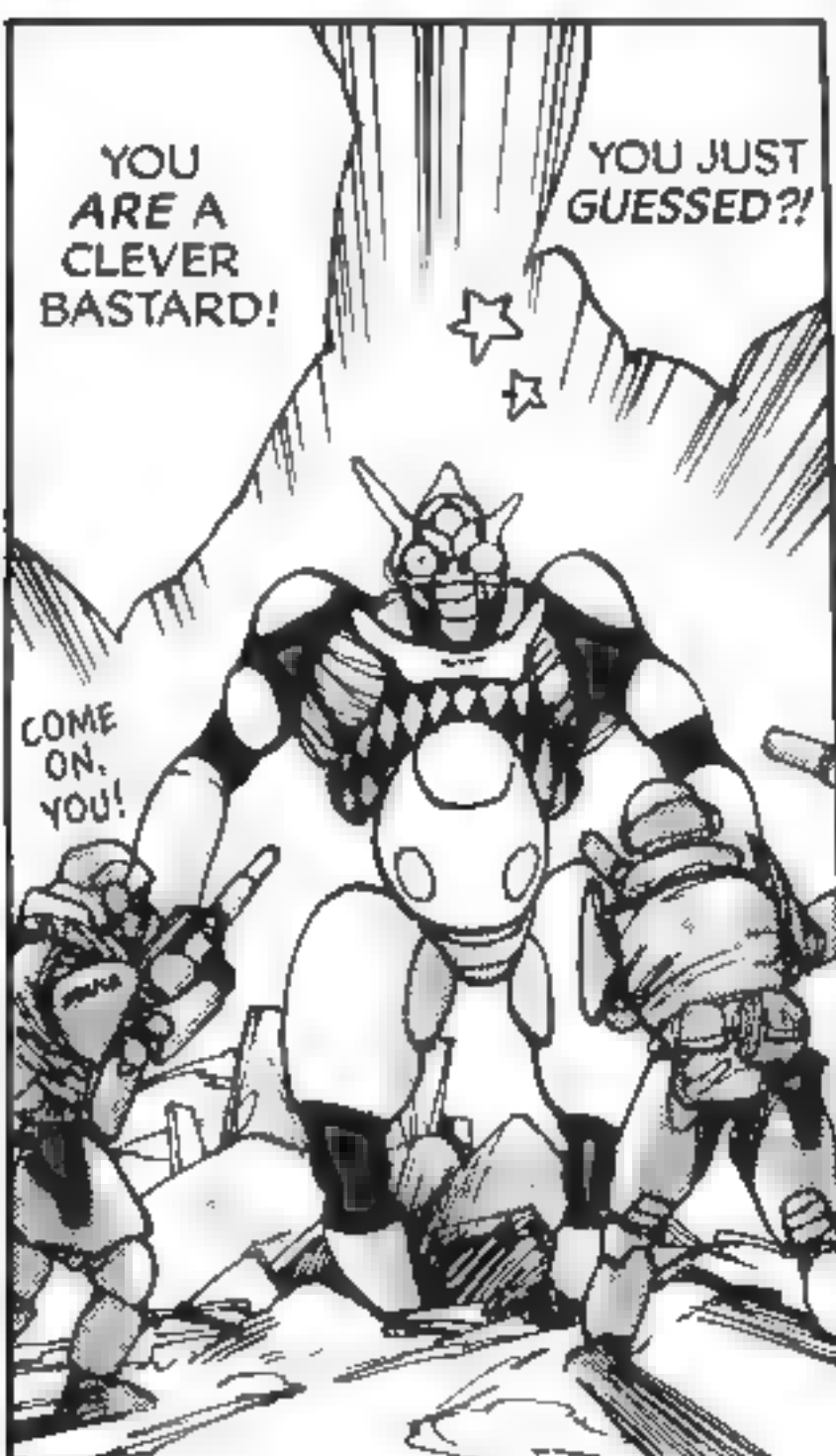
PISSES ME OFF...!

CHAK

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, PAL?! OR MAYBE YOU'D RATHER DIE UNDER THAT PILE OF RUBBLE...?



FX CLUNK



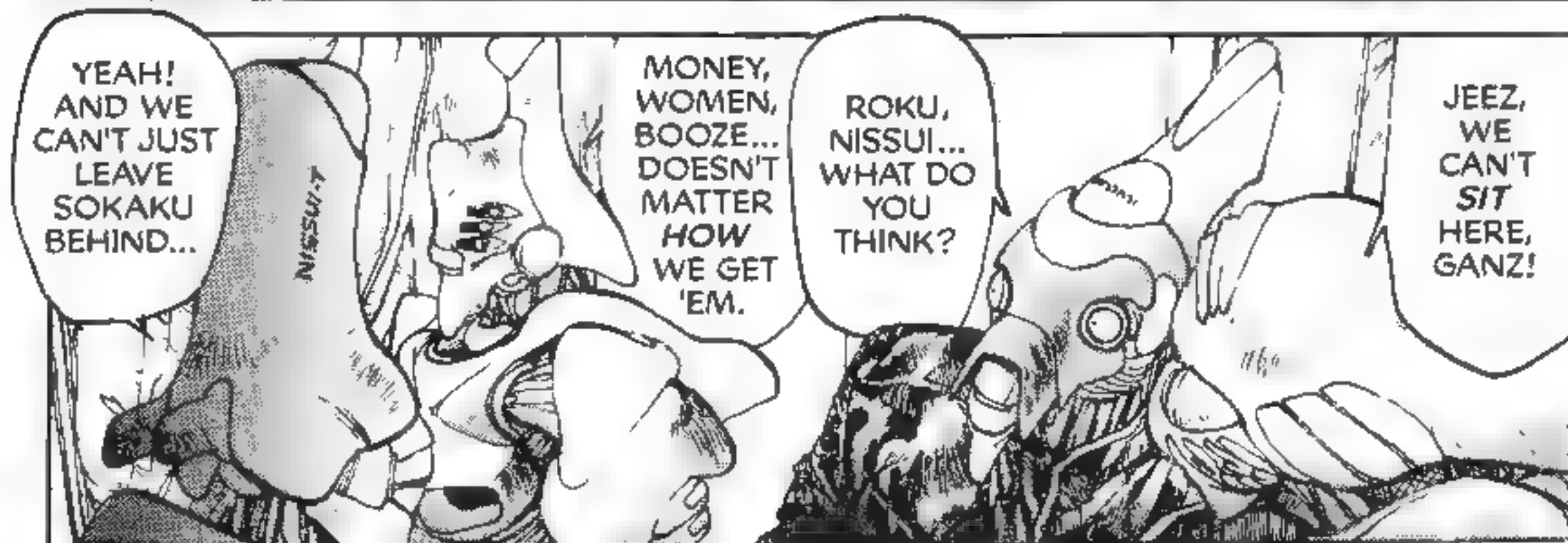


NOTHIN'.
THE FROGS
HADN'T
EVEN
HIRED US
YET.

WH...
WHAT'RE
WE
GONNA
DO?

THAT
BOOBY
TRAP
BOOBY...!

SOKAKU
GOT
HIMSELF
CAUGHT.



YEAH!
AND WE
CAN'T JUST
LEAVE
SOKAKU
BEHIND...

MONEY,
WOMEN,
BOOZE...
DOESN'T
MATTER
HOW
WE GET
'EM.

ROKU,
NISSUI...
WHAT DO
YOU
THINK?

JEEZ,
WE
CAN'T
SIT
HERE,
GANZ!



RIGHT,
THEN. DROP
YOUR GEAR,
GENTLE-
MEN--
LOOKS
LIKE WE'RE
GOING TO
OLYMPUS.

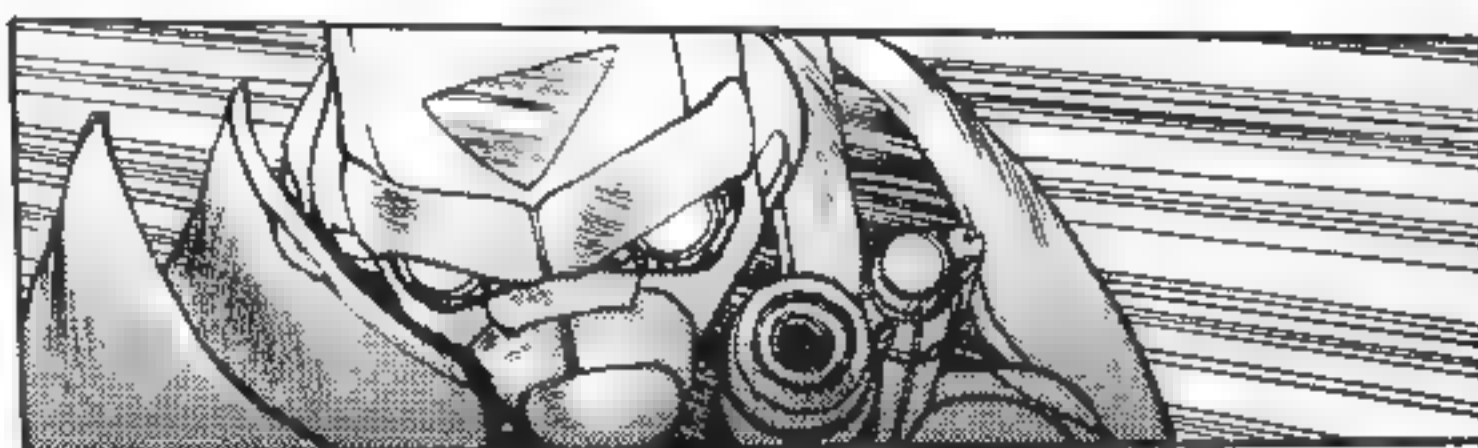
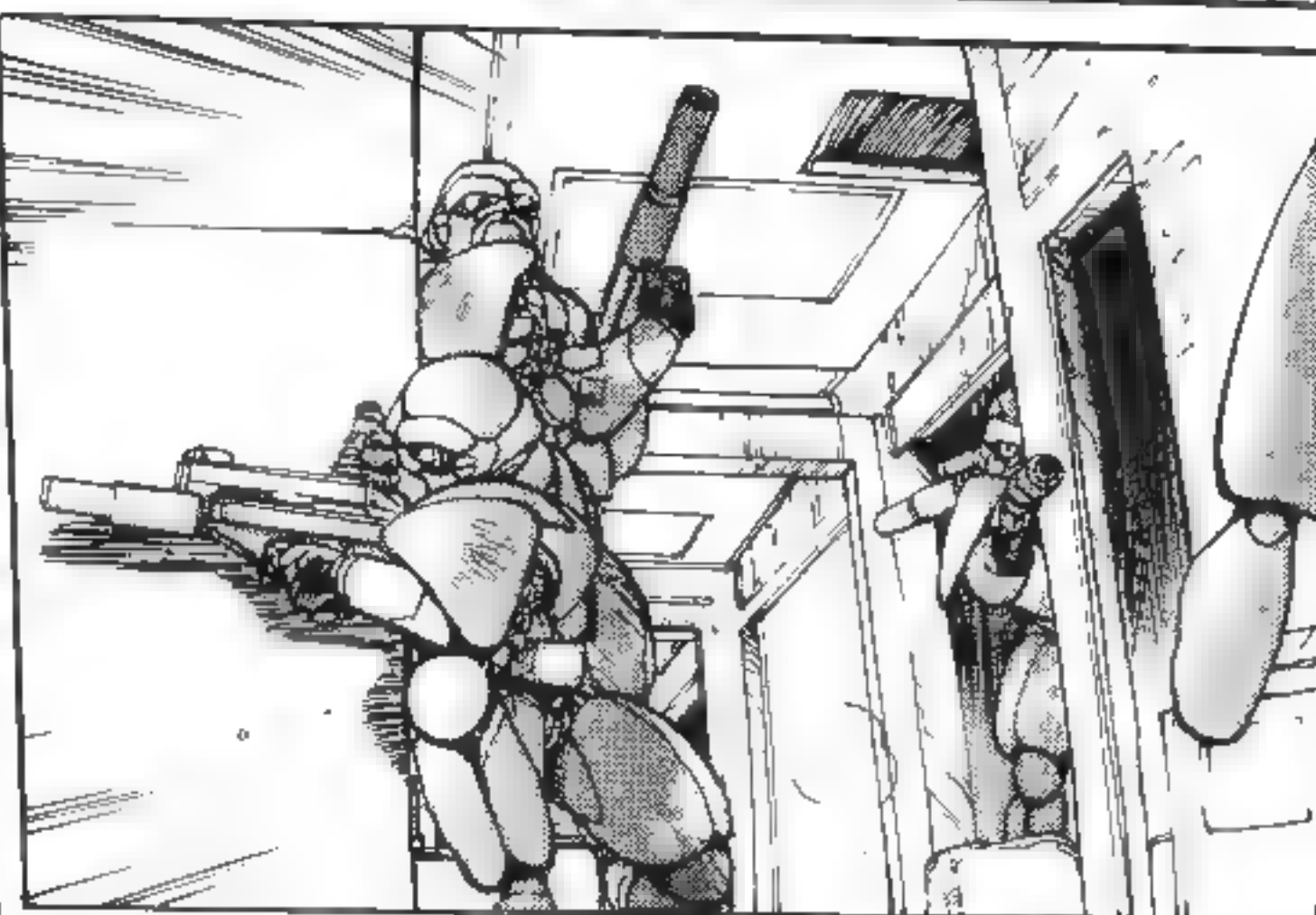
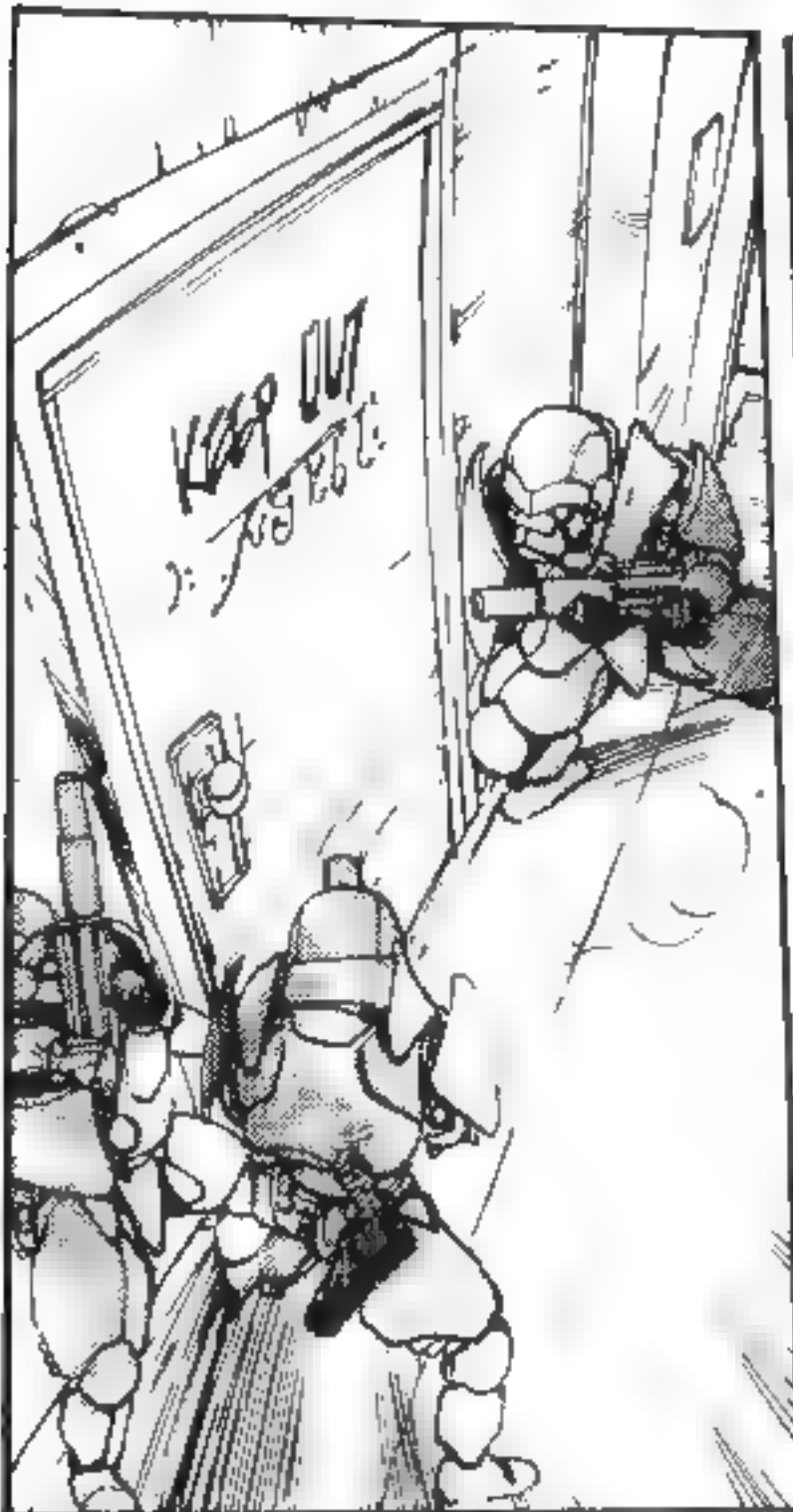
CHAK



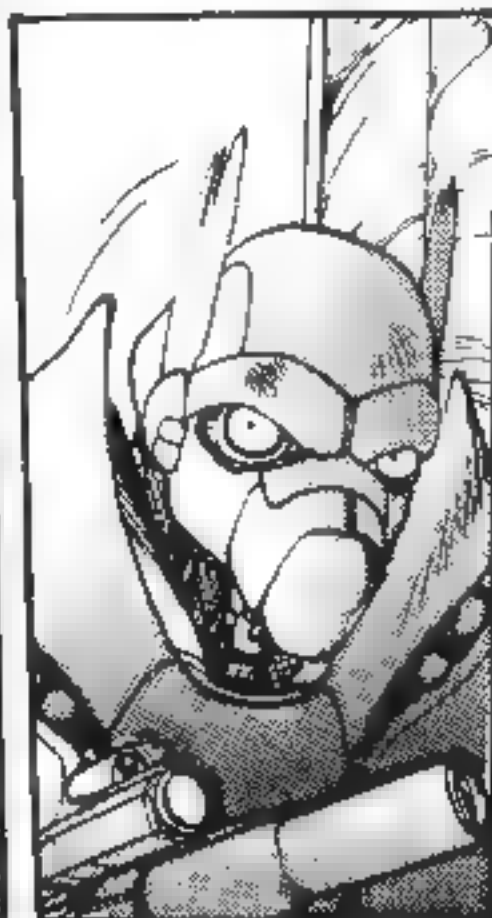
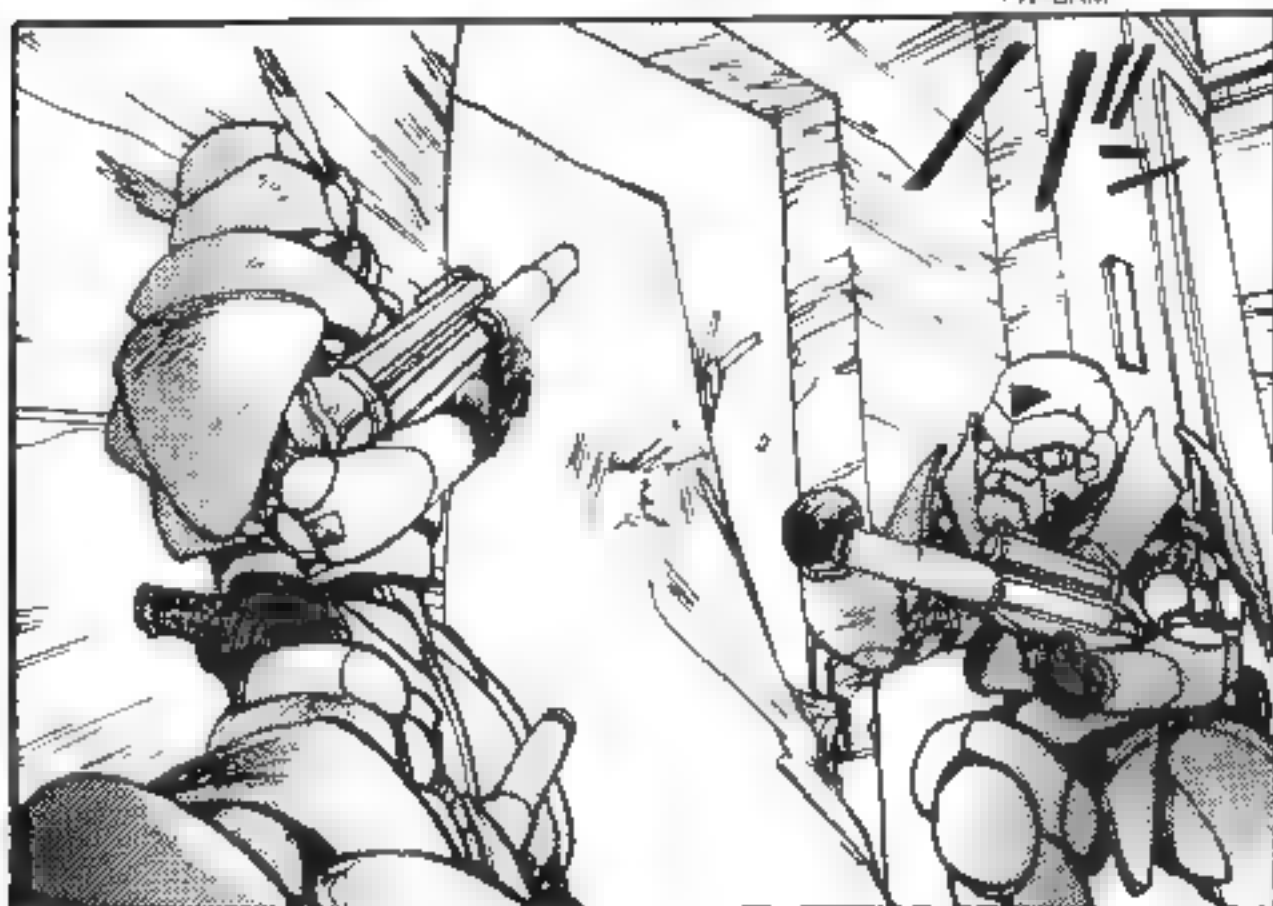
I DON'T
WANT A
SHOOTING
MATCH.
HOW
ABOUT
YOU
GUYS?

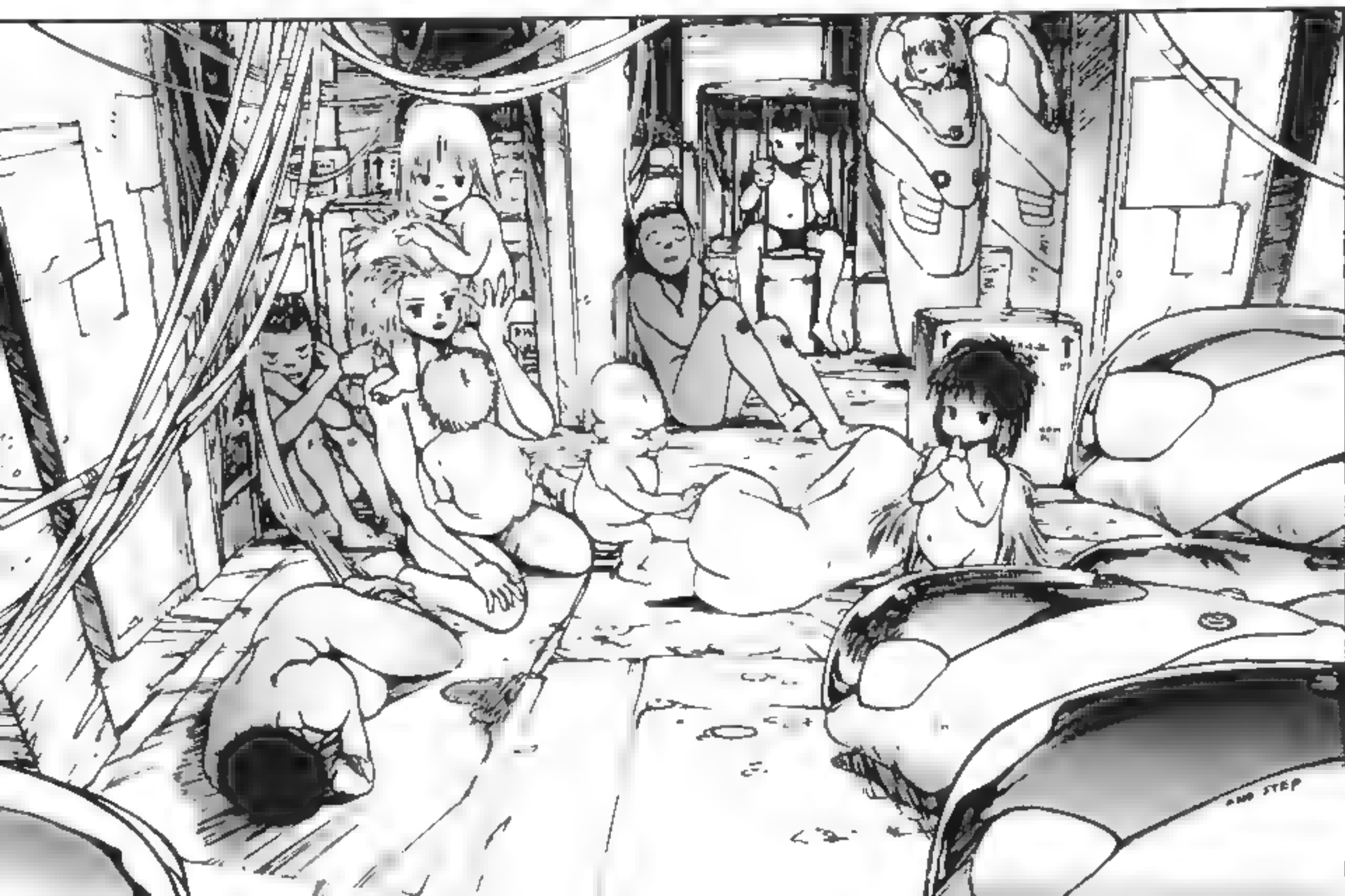
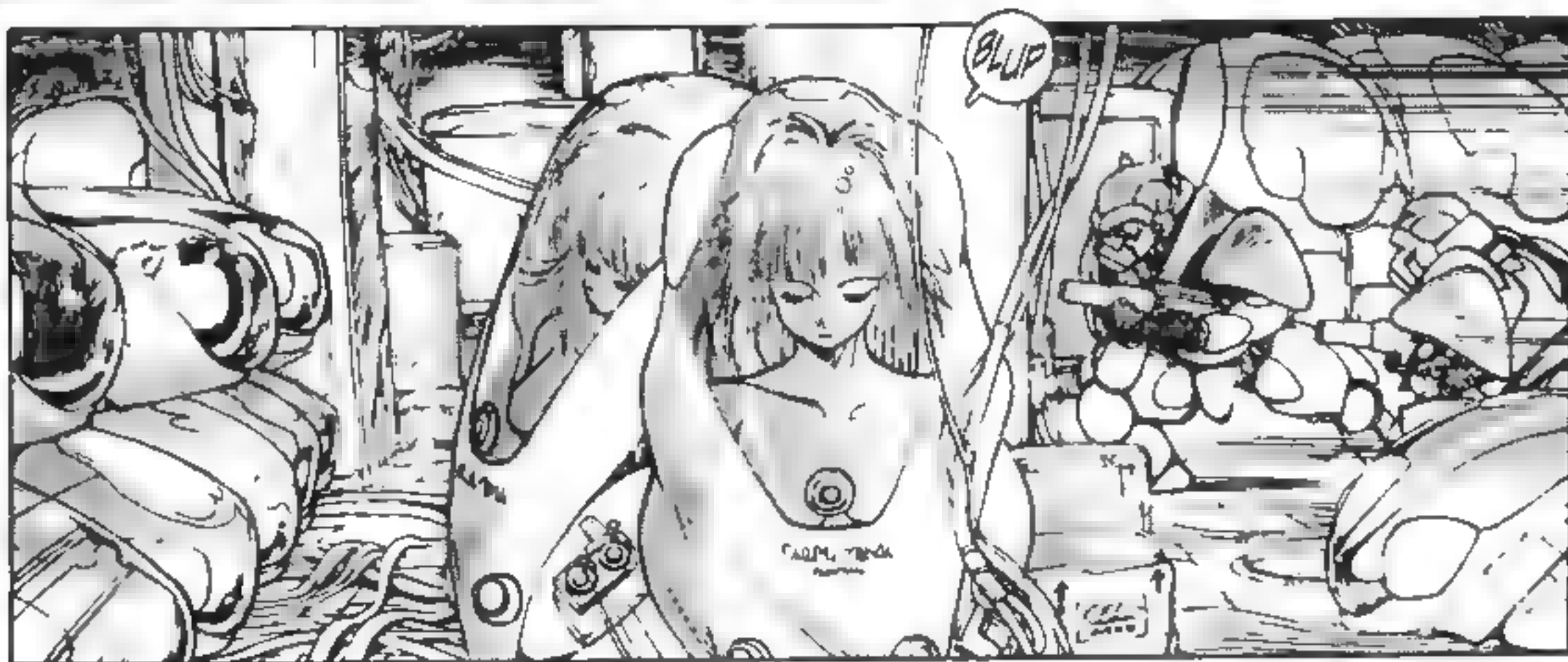


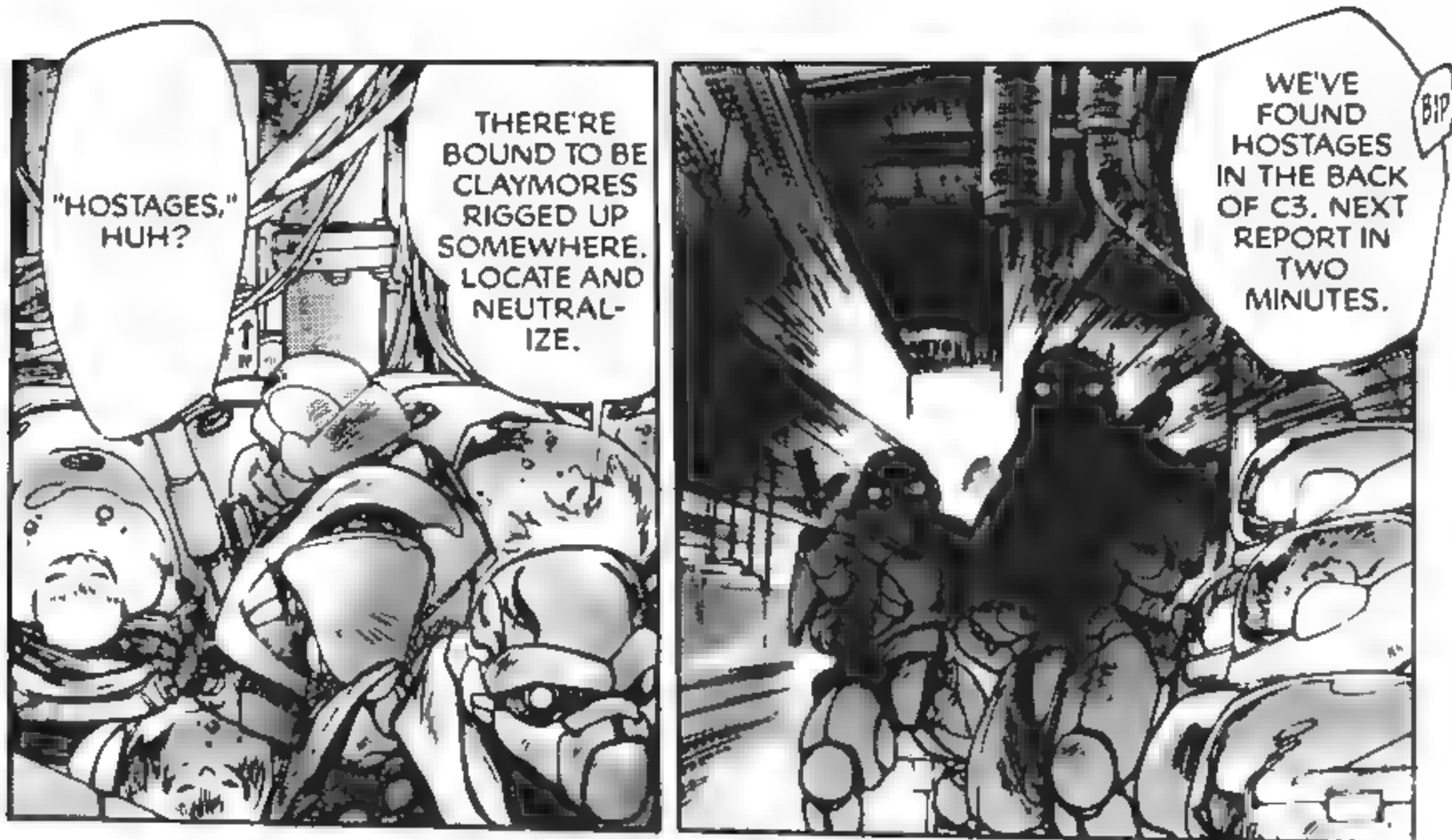
MAJORITY
RULES...

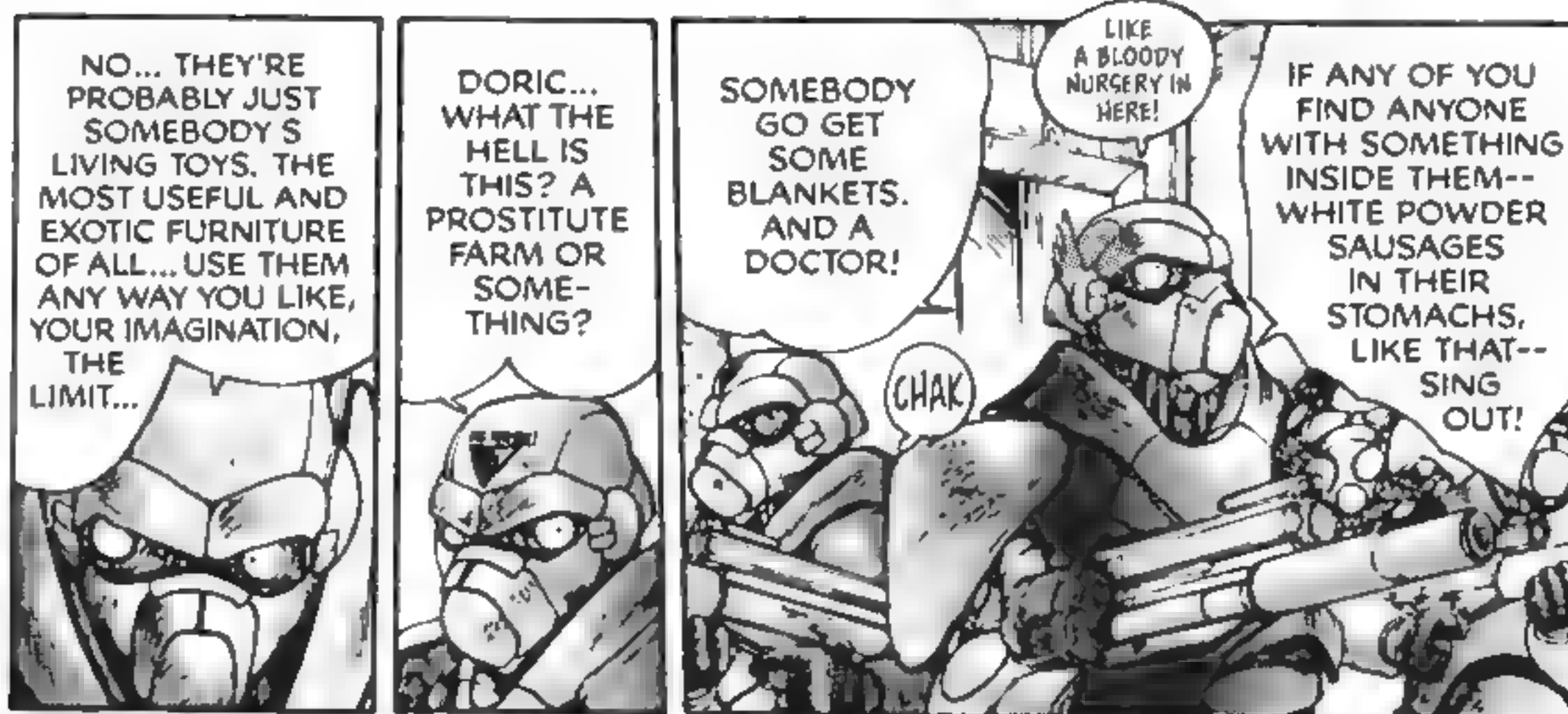


*FX BAM

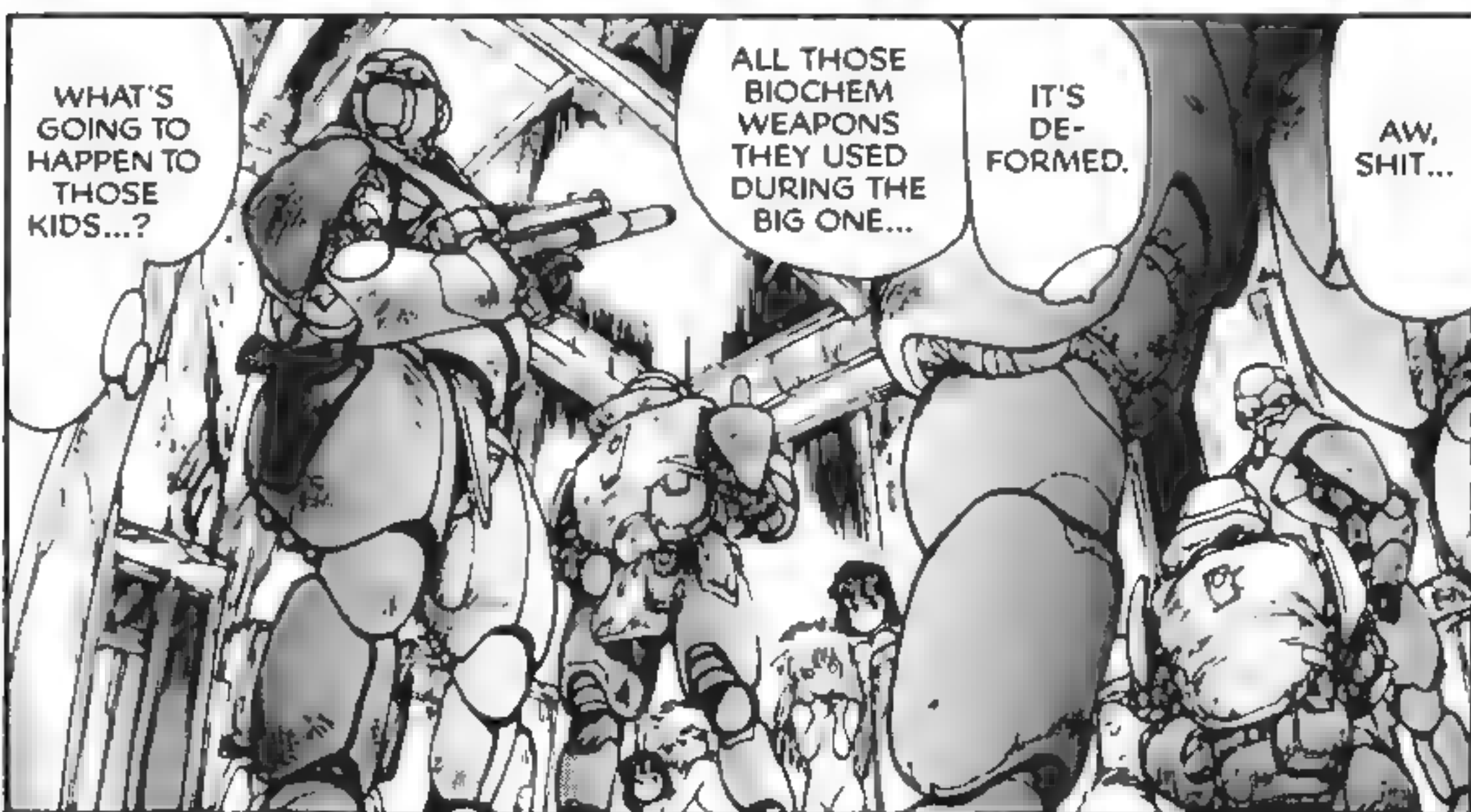
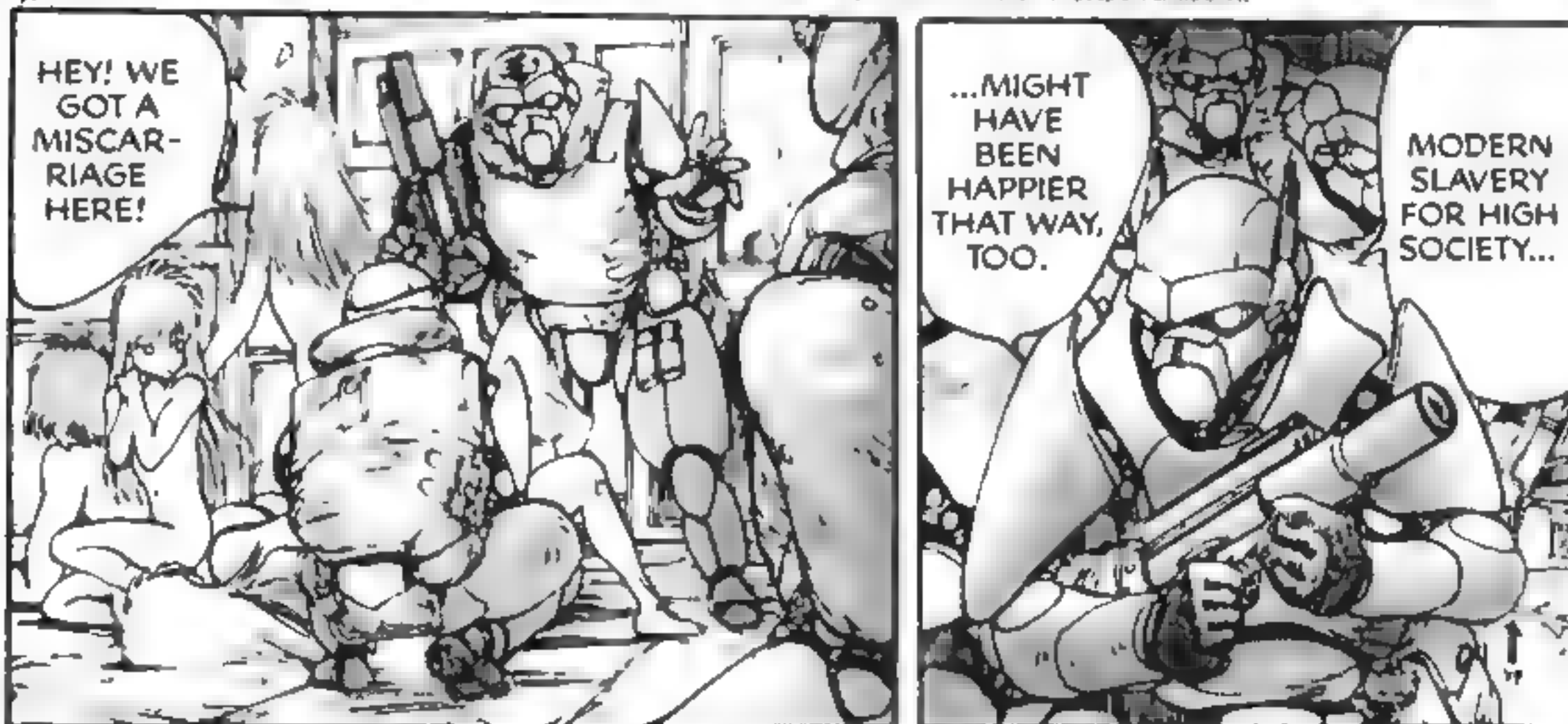








★ Mutual bummer: It's subjects for controversial experiments. Men-shields more effective than composite armor. Men's for all people. Full Mure, etc.





DOG MATTHEW CARTED HIM AWAY.

HOW'S HELLMAN?

C4, C6, PULL OUT!

HEY!

SAME HERE AS IN OLYMPUS, SEEMS LIKE... PEOPLE ARE THE MOST VALUABLE COMMODITY...

C5, PULL OUT!

NOT LIKE ZURICH

I FEEL LIKE A GRAVE ROBBER...

--PICKED UP SEVENTY-TWO KIDS FROM FOUR ROOMS IN THE BASEMENT--



*FX KRAK



IT'S GONNA BE HELL JUST TEACHING THEM TO TALK. THINK THERE'S ANY HOPE...?

THEY'RE ALL MISSING THEIR FRONT TEETH!



STUFF A RAG IN IT, FUZZY-WUZZY!

ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO SHUT THIS GUY UP?

HOW DARE YOU IMPRISON ME! I HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY! I DEMAND--



C'MON, MOVE IT, CREEP!

TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES... A BIT LONG.

GOOD.

SQUAD LEADER, THE BUILDING IS CLEAR. ALL SQUADS PULLED OUT.



MAN, TAKE AWAY THE MIRANDA AND THEY SURE DO SPOUT OFF.

YEAH, YEAH. LEMME MAKE A NOTE OF THAT.

THE HOST THAT SUPPORTS YOU PARASITES WILL DIE SOMEDAY, TOO! YOUR NARCISSISTIC FANTASY IS DOOMED!

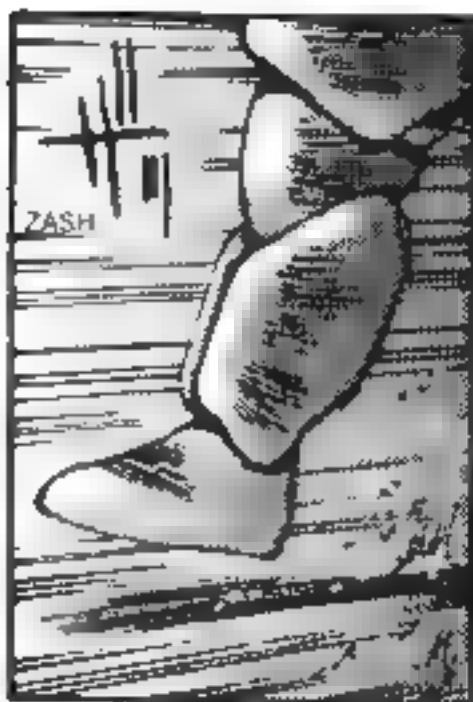


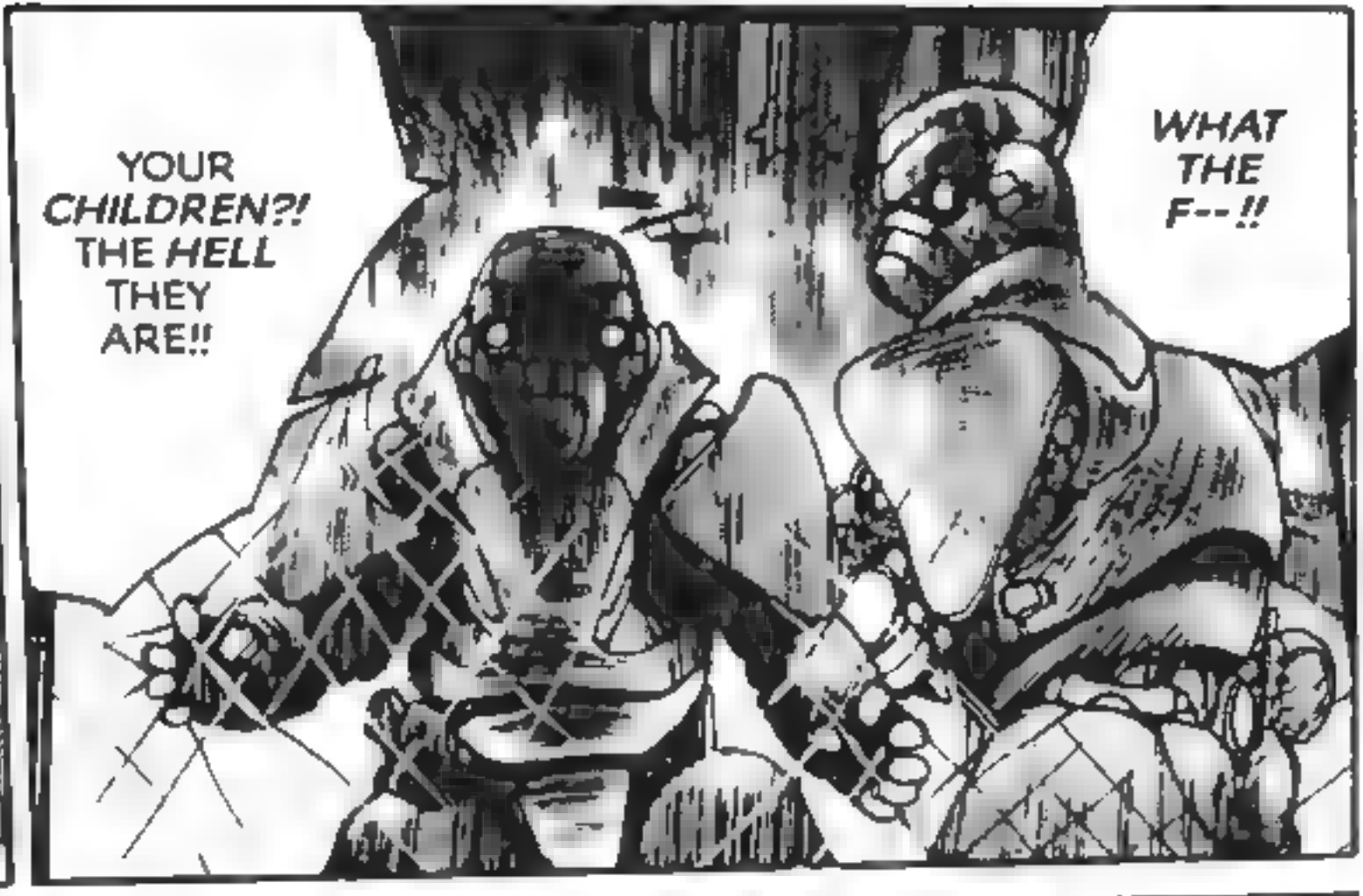
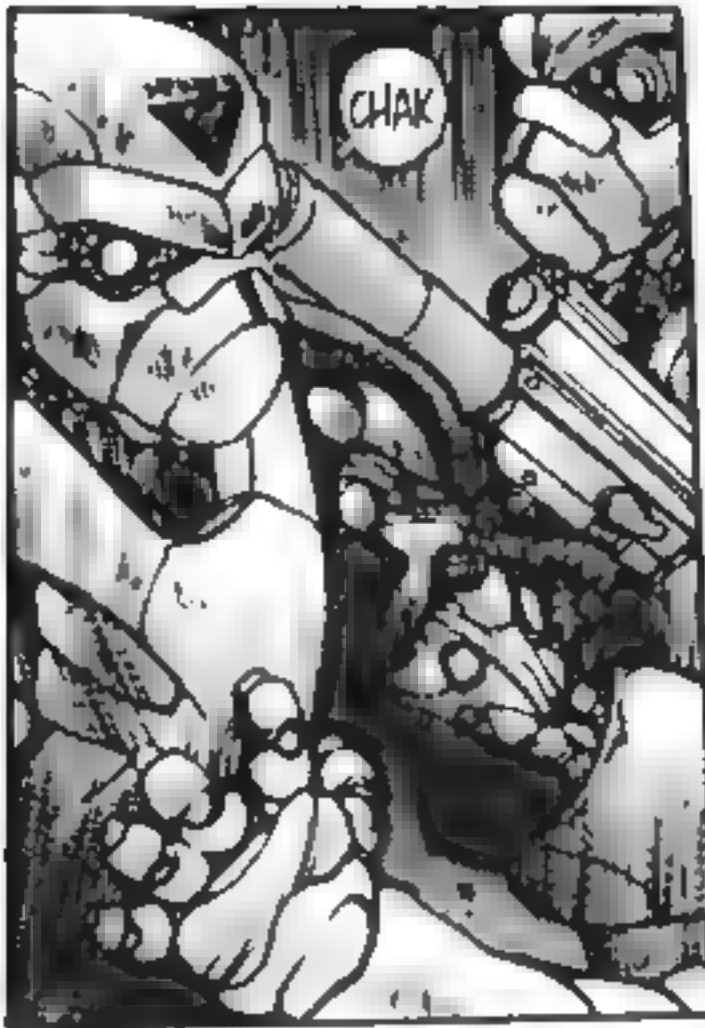
"GLORY AND AUTHORITY ARE LOST IN DEATH," RIGHT?

THAT FROM RECOLLECTIONS OF HOPE?

YOU GOT IT.

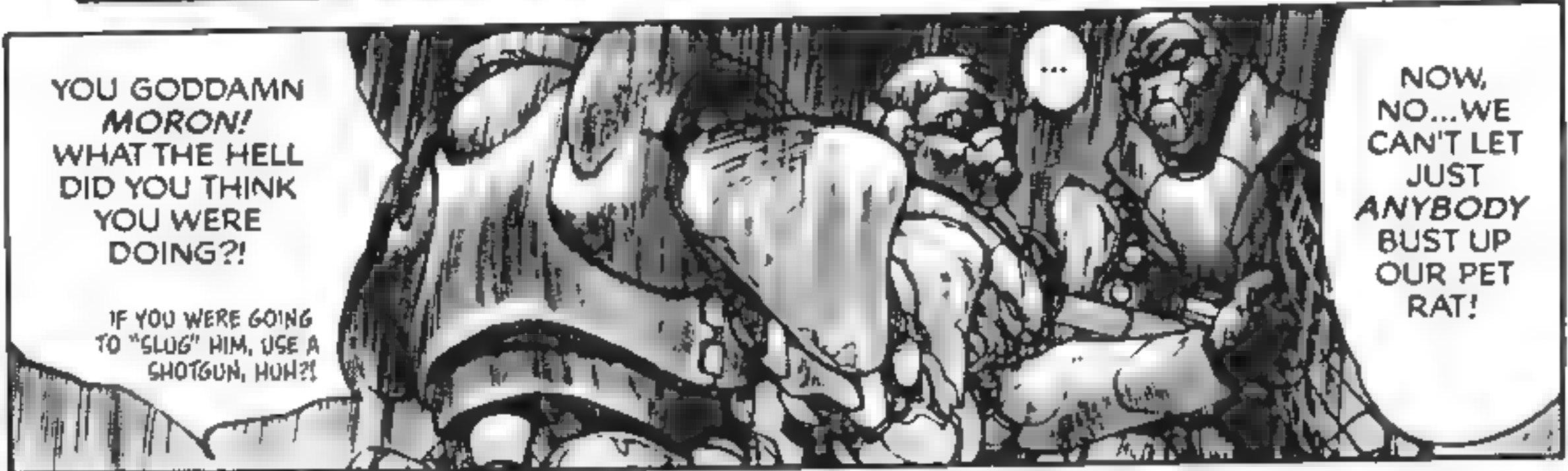
DE GAULLE SAID IT BEFORE... "THERE'S AN END TO EVERYTHING."





YOUR
CHILDREN?!
THE HELL
THEY
ARE!!

WHAT
THE
F--!!



YOU GODDAMN
MORON!
WHAT THE HELL
DID YOU THINK
YOU WERE
DOING?!

IF YOU WERE GOING
TO "SLUG" HIM, USE A
SHOTGUN, HUH?!

NOW,
NO...WE
CAN'T LET
JUST
ANYBODY
BUST UP
OUR PET
RAT!



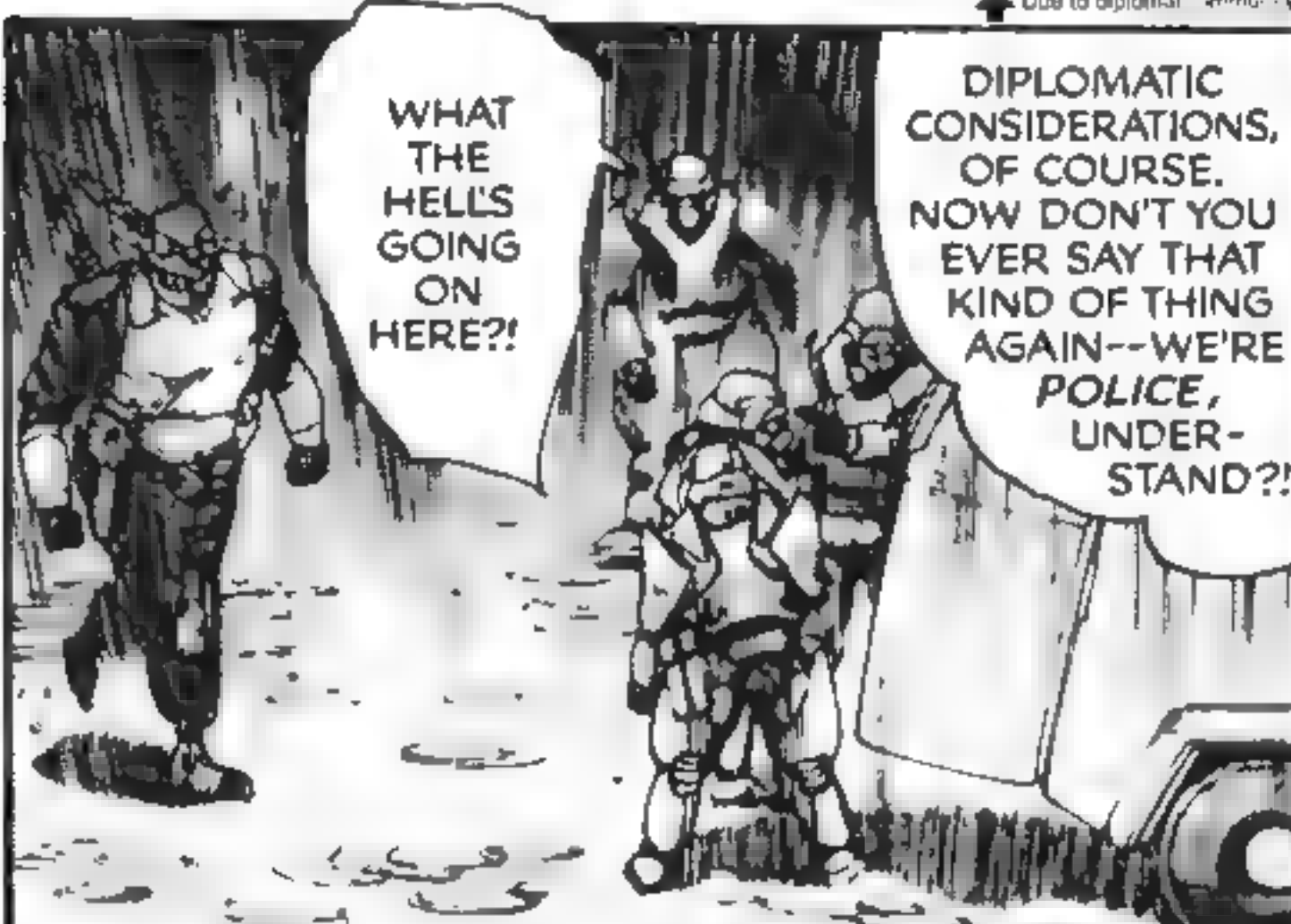
WHY
DIDN'T YOU
SHOOT HIM
WHEN YOU
HAD THE
CHANCE?!

WE'LL JUST
HAVE TO LET
HIM GO
ANYWAY!



DEUNAN
DID
WHAT?!
NOT
AGAIN...

COULD
BE BAD
NEWS...



WHAT
THE
HELL'S
GOING
ON
HERE?!

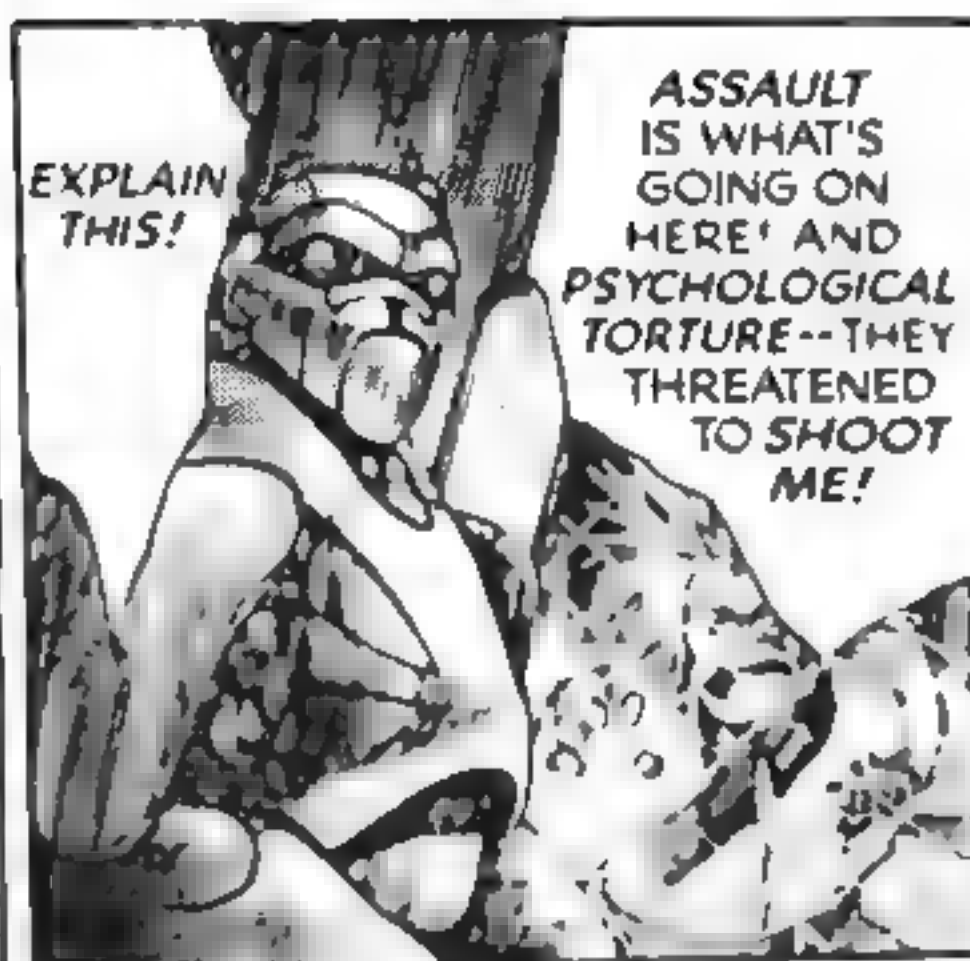
DIPLOMATIC
CONSIDERATIONS,
OF COURSE.
NOW DON'T YOU
EVER SAY THAT
KIND OF THING
AGAIN--WE'RE
POLICE,
UNDER-
STAND?!



RIGHT!
THAT'S
WHAT
HAP-
PENED!
HE--

I...HE...
ER, HE
TRIED TO
STEAL MY
GUN!
THAT S IT--
MY GUN!

WHAT
ABOUT
HER?



EXPLAIN
THIS!

ASSAULT
IS WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE! AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL
TORTURE--THEY
THREATENED
TO SHOOT
ME!

*FX KSSSHHH



YES,
SIR!

REPORT
TO ME
AFTER-
WARD!



IT'S
BECAUSE OF
BASTARDS
LIKE
YOU--

THAT S
ENOUGH!



WELL?!
ANSWER
ME!

YOU
GOT IT,
SOL-
DIER?!

BUT,
SIR
I...

EHEH...
EH...



AND
YOU--
OPEN
YOUR
VISOR!



YES,
SIR . I
MEAN NO,
SIR

IF IT HAPPENS
AGAIN, I'LL
SEE THAT YOU
SPEND THE REST
OF YOUR CAREER
GUARDING
THE LIBYAN
EMBASSY!

NEARLY LOST
YOUR GUN,
HMM? CAN'T
YOU TAKE
CARE OF
YOUR OWN
PROPERTY?!



'FX HRONNN



HEY, HEY,
IT'S ALL
RIGHT--LOOK,
THERE'S THIS
BLONDE
CHICK...

FOR
CHRIST'S
SAKE! CAN'T
YOU THINK
ABOUT
ANYTHING
ELSE?!

THE
PHILIPPINES
AND HONG
KONG ARE
UP TO
POSEIDON,
NOT US

NOW
THAT WE'VE
SHUT DOWN
FRANCE, THE
MEXICAN
ROUTE WILL
SOAR IN
VALUE.

MAN,
THAT
WAS A
PIECE OF
CAKE!

URS



YOU CAN'T GIVE
SOMEONE A
CYBORG LEG JUST
LIKE *THAT*--IT'D
TEAR OUT WHEN
THEY TRY TO RUN.
YOU SHOULD'VE
CALLED A
REGULAR
DOCTOR!

DAMNED
TOO LATE



DON'T
KNOW
WHY
YOU
WOKE
ME UP
FOR A
SCRATCH
LIKE
THAT!

DOC!
HOW'S
HELL-
MAN?

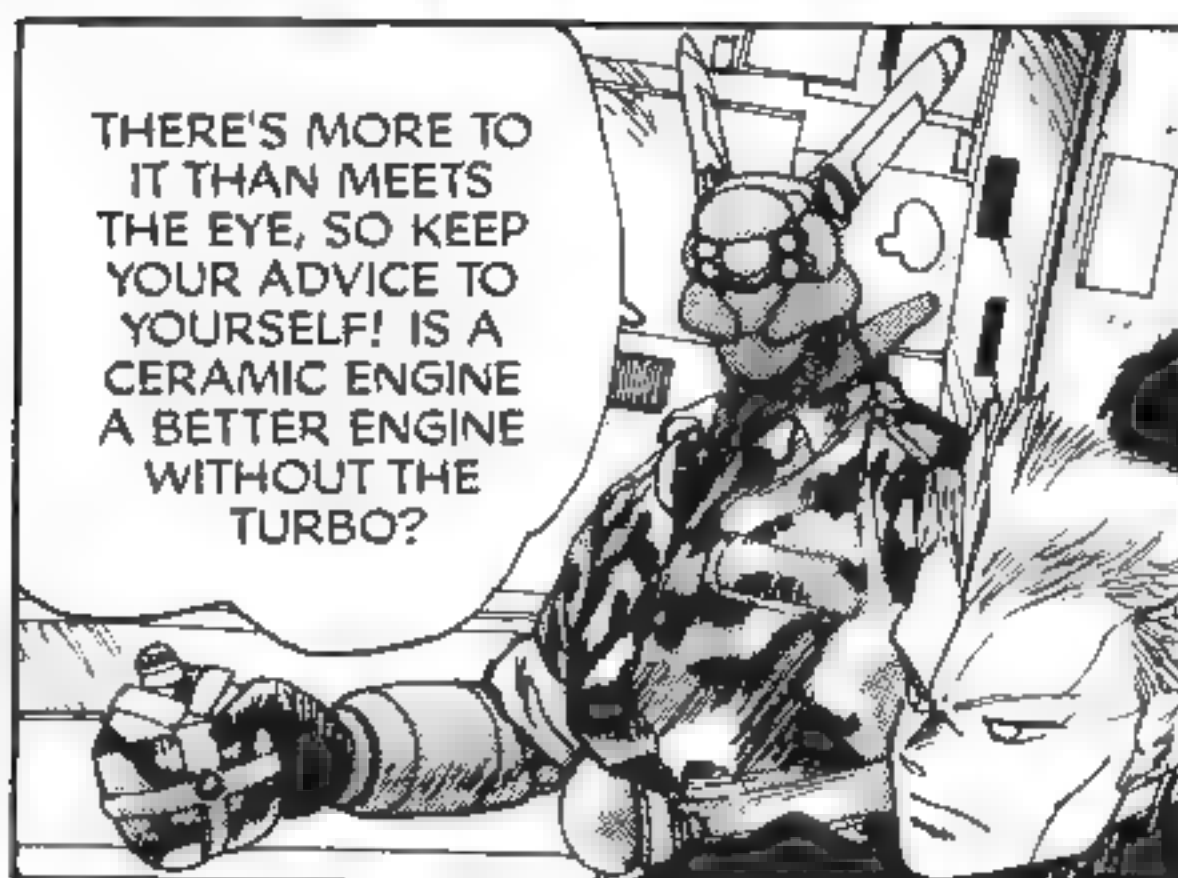
...

SO,
DORIC,
BABY, PICK
YOU UP AT
EIGHT?

SURE



YOU WERE LUCKY THOSE GUYS AT THE ENTRANCE TO C3 WEREN'T PROS.



YOU SHOULD CHOOSE YOUR PARTNERS MORE CAREFULLY. SHE IS NOT A GOOD COMPONENT.



SOMEDAY SHE WILL GET IN YOUR WAY. DEATH WILL COME CALLING FOR YOU, THROUGH HER.

BUT WE NEED "COMPONENTS" LIKE HER. THE ODD PIECE OUT IN THE JIGSAW PUZZLE, THE VARIABLE PART. A UNIT STRUCTURED LIKE A SIMPLE METALLIC CRYSTAL HAS NO FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO THE UNEXPECTED.

SURE, IT'S TOUGH WORK FOR SOMEONE HER AGE...

CAN'T HAVE A REACTION WITHOUT A CATALYST.



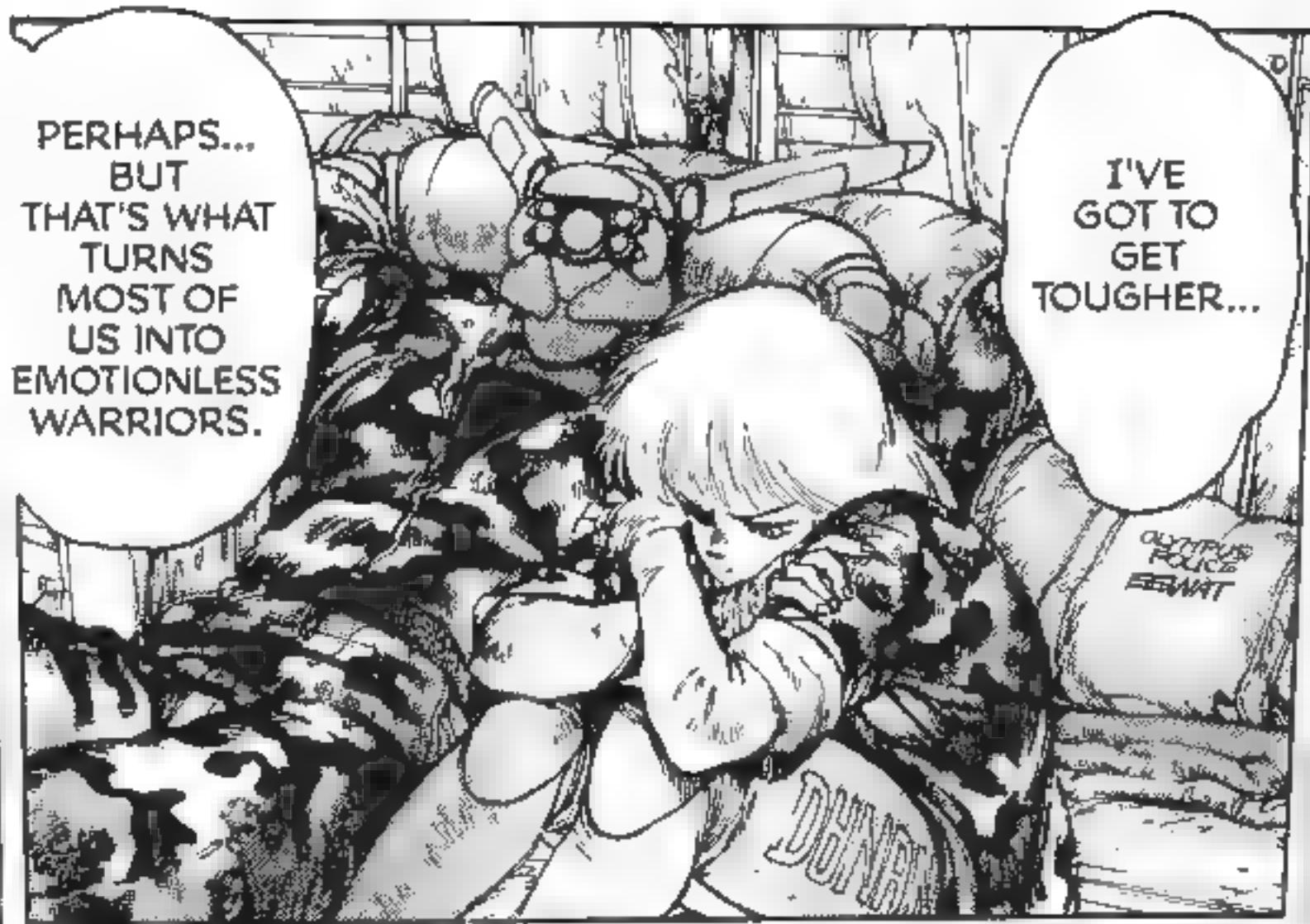


The concept of unification no longer stands to reason. Diversity of species is to Gara what diversity of cellular tissue is to an organism, etc.





ANYWAY,
DON'T BROOD
ABOUT THINGS
THAT CAN'T BE
HELPED. DO
THE BEST YOU
CAN--THAT'S
ALL ANYONE
COULD
ASK.

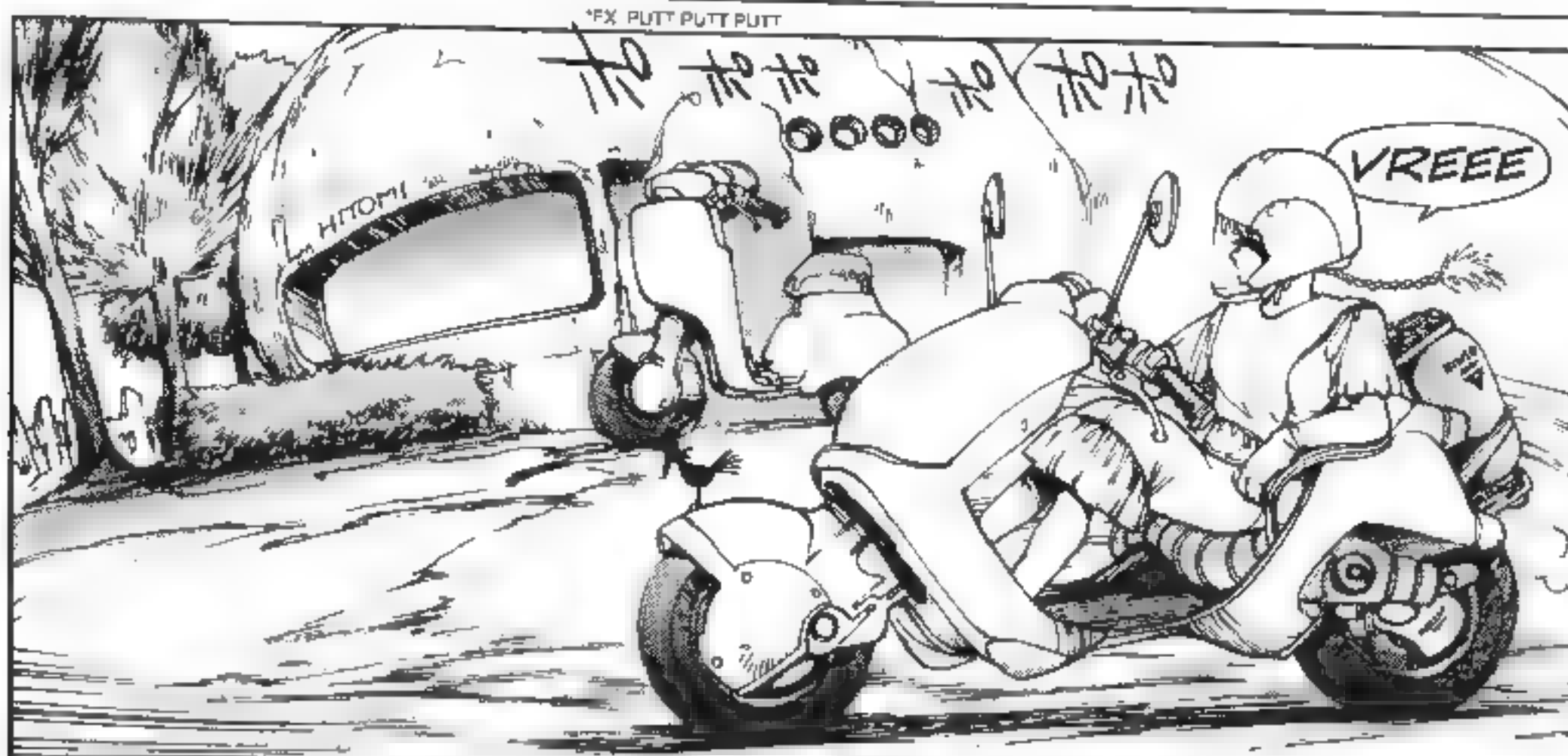
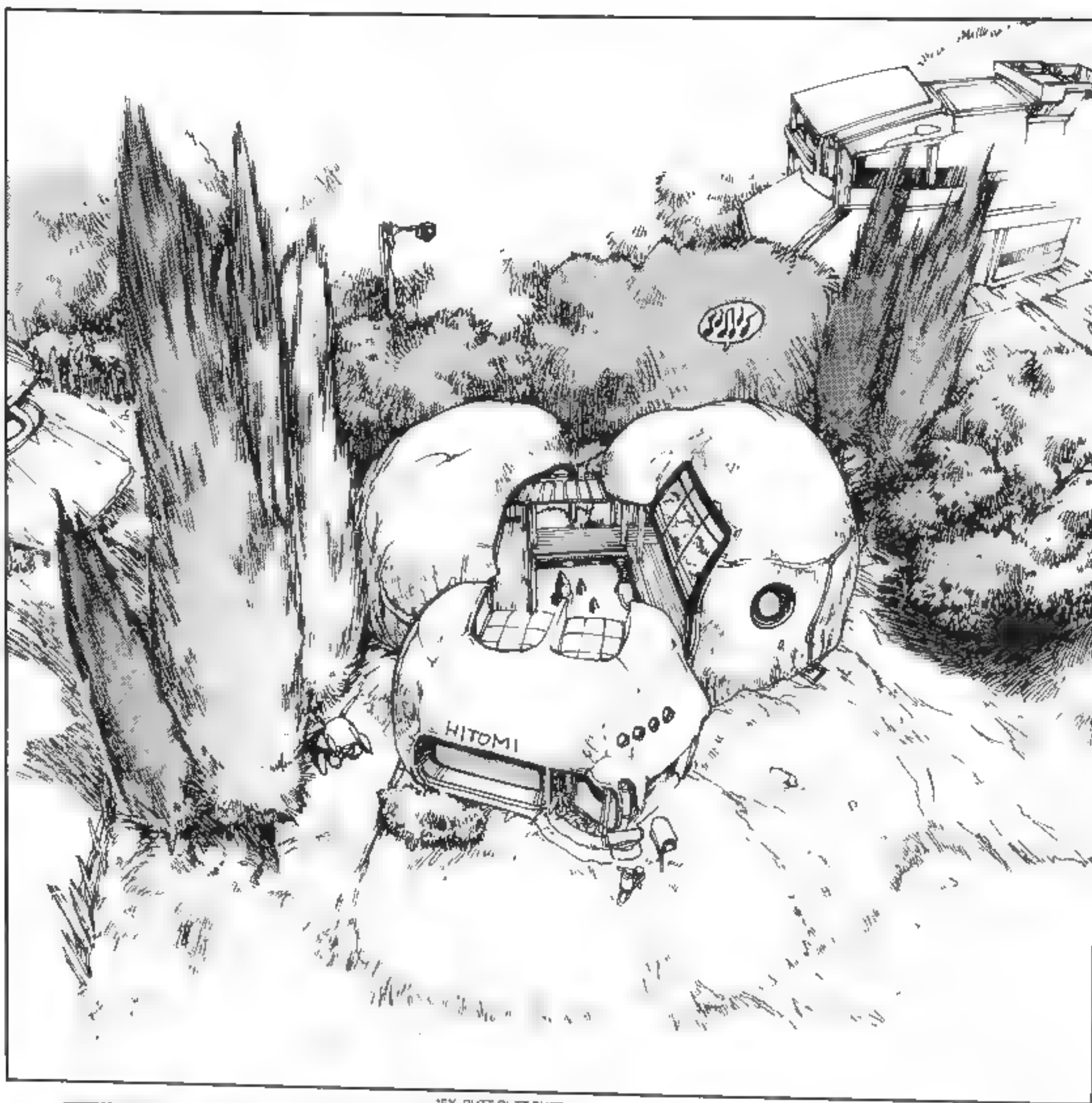


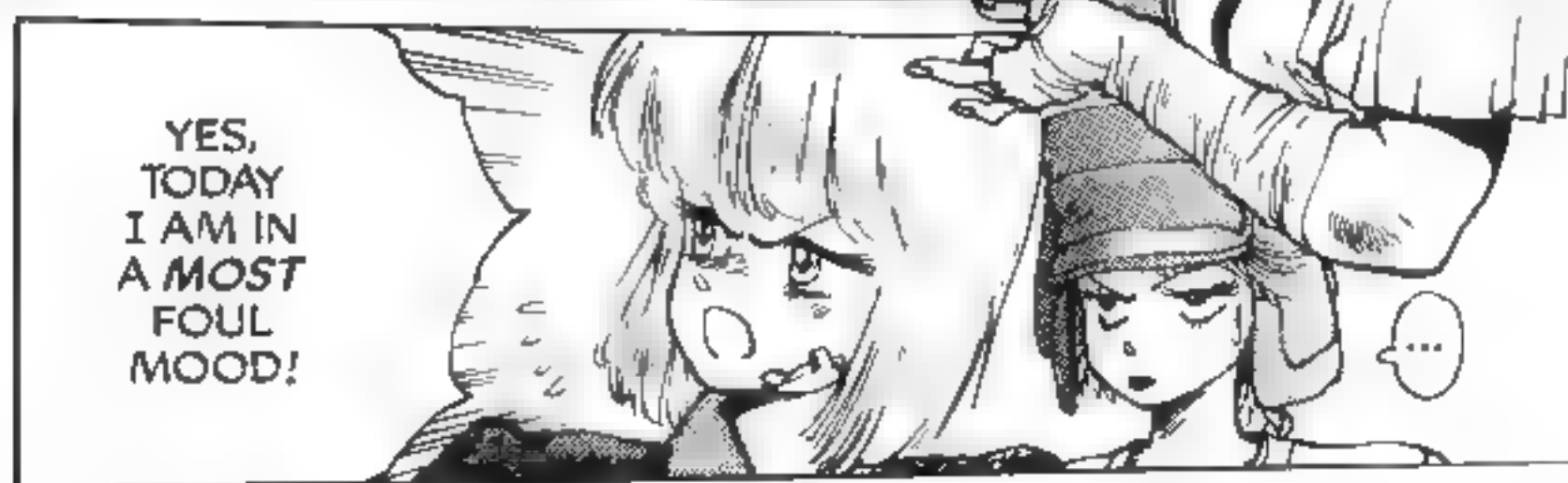
PERHAPS...
BUT
THAT'S WHAT
TURNS
MOST OF
US INTO
EMOTIONLESS
WARRIORS.

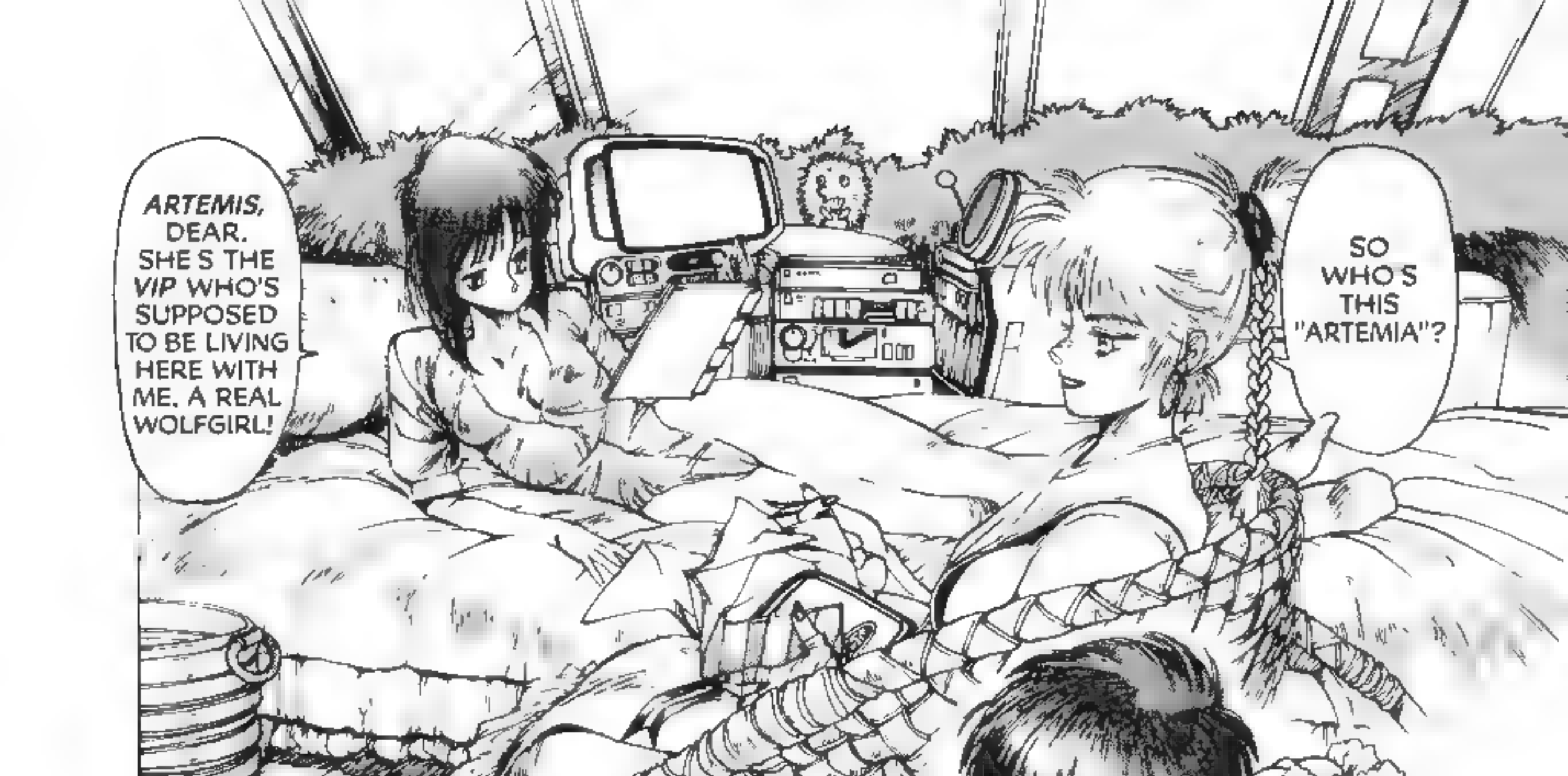
I'VE
GOT TO
GET
TOUGHER...



DEAD OR ALIVE







ARTEMIS,
DEAR.
SHE'S THE
VIP WHO'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE LIVING
HERE WITH
ME. A REAL
WOLFGIRL!

SO
WHO'S
THIS
"ARTEMIA"?

Incidentally, artemis are brine shrimp. Also known as "sea monkeys"

!

ANYWAY, SHE'S GONE
MISSING. BUT THEY
SAY SHE'S GOT CAT
EYES AND EARS LIKE
A MULE DEER, SO
HOW LONG CAN SHE
HIDE OUT LOOKING
LIKE *THAT*,
HMM?

HEH
HEH

QUITE A
CREATURE... HER
HAIR CHANGES
COLOR TO SHIELD
HER AGAINST
ULTRAVIOLET. IT
EVEN CHANGES
LENGTH ACCORD-
ING TO CLIMATE
TO MAINTAIN
HER BODY
TEMPERATURE.

*Book: Introduction
to Molecular Design

IN-HOUSE
PRODUC-
TION, MM?
NOT CONTRIB-
UTING
MUCH TO
EVOLUTION,
IS SHE?

NEED A
MIX OF
GENES FOR
IMPROVE-
MENT

WOW! LOOK AT
THIS-- WITHOUT
LIFE-EXTENSION
PROCESSING, SHE
AGES FIVE TIMES
FASTER THAN
NORMAL! AND
GET THIS-- SHE
CAN CLONE
HERSELF!



EVOLUTION
WILL LEAVE
HER
BEHIND.

ARTEMIS MAY
BE CHANGING
ALL THE TIME,
BUT SHE'S A
DEAD END. A
ONE-WOMAN
SHOW.

EVEN PLANTS AVOID
SELF-POLLINATION...

PARTHENOGENESIS
IS OVERWHELMINGLY
ADVANTAGEOUS
FOR SHEER
REPLICATION. BUT
EVEN IF IT'S GOOD
FOR INDIVIDUAL
ORGANISMS,
THE SPECIES AS A
WHOLE CAN'T
KEEP UP WITH
AN EVOLVING
ENVIRONMENT.



IN ORDER TO
PRESERVE LEEWAY FOR
CHANGE, YOU ALWAYS
HAVE TO RENEW...

MEGAERA?
WOULD YOU PLEASE
STOP BEING SO
GLOOMY?!

THERE HAVE
ALREADY BEEN
NINE BIOROID
SUICIDES JUST
THIS WEEK. THE
AUTHORITIES
ARE PREPARING
TO OPEN AN
INVESTIGATION,
AND--



AND
WHAT
IS, IS
EVERY-
THING!

EVERY-
THING
IS AS IT
IS.



AND
HERE I
CALLED
YOU BE-
CAUSE
I WAS
SO BUSY
...!

OH, YEAH! I
BROUGHT THE
SAMPLES FOR
OUR "CHOCO-
LATE PARTY"...
HAVE A BITE!

WELL, LIKE I
SAID, YOU ALL
LOOK ALIKE
TO ME!

SHE'S A
MEMBER OF
EUMENIDES--
A GENUINE
COMBAT
CYBORG!
SHE'S ONE
OF MISS
MERAN-
POUS'S
FRIENDS...

STUB-
BORN
AS A
BRICK,
TOO...

GIMME,
GIMME!



OLYMPUS: HAEROPOLIS PARK



FROWR?

HAH

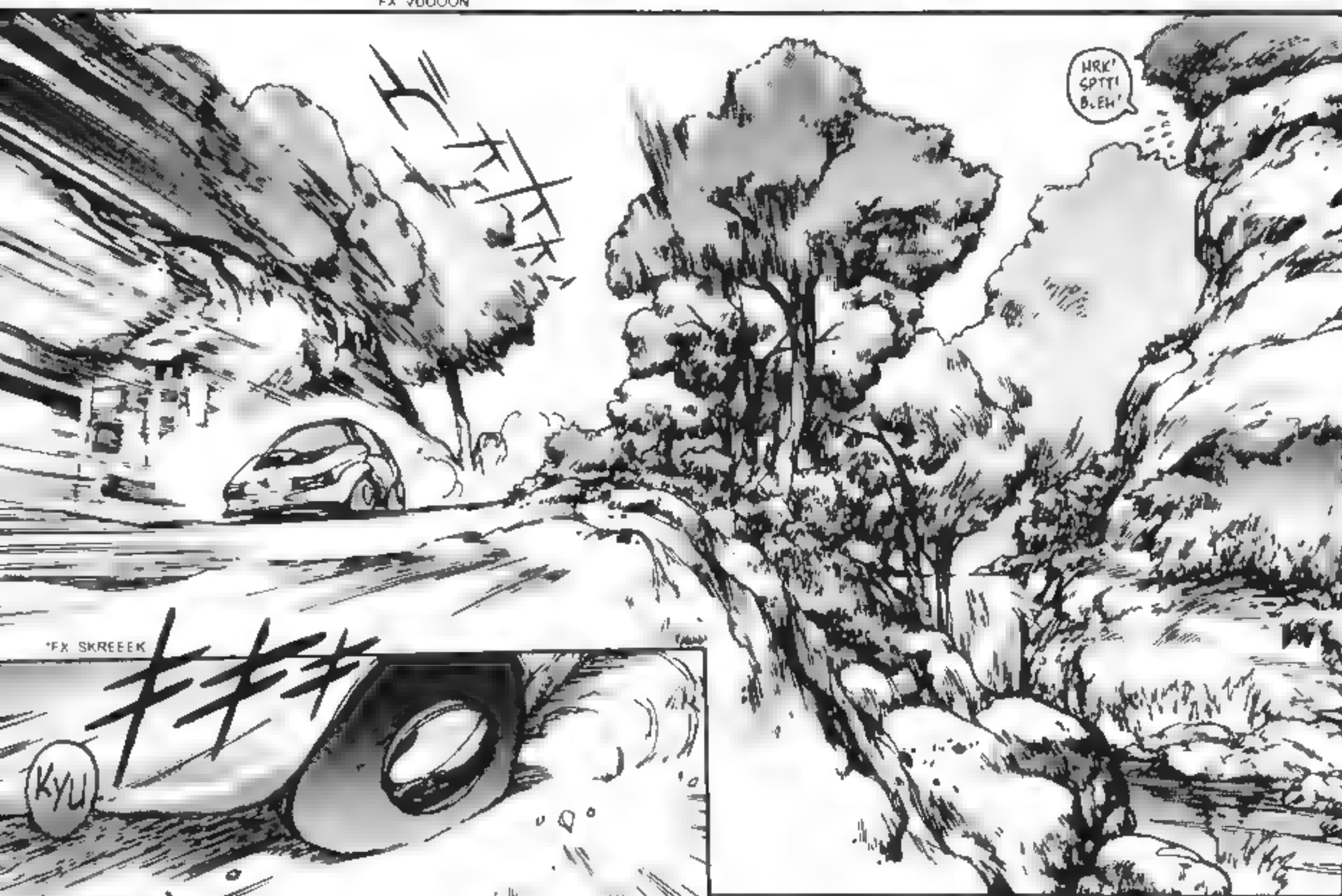
YAAWN

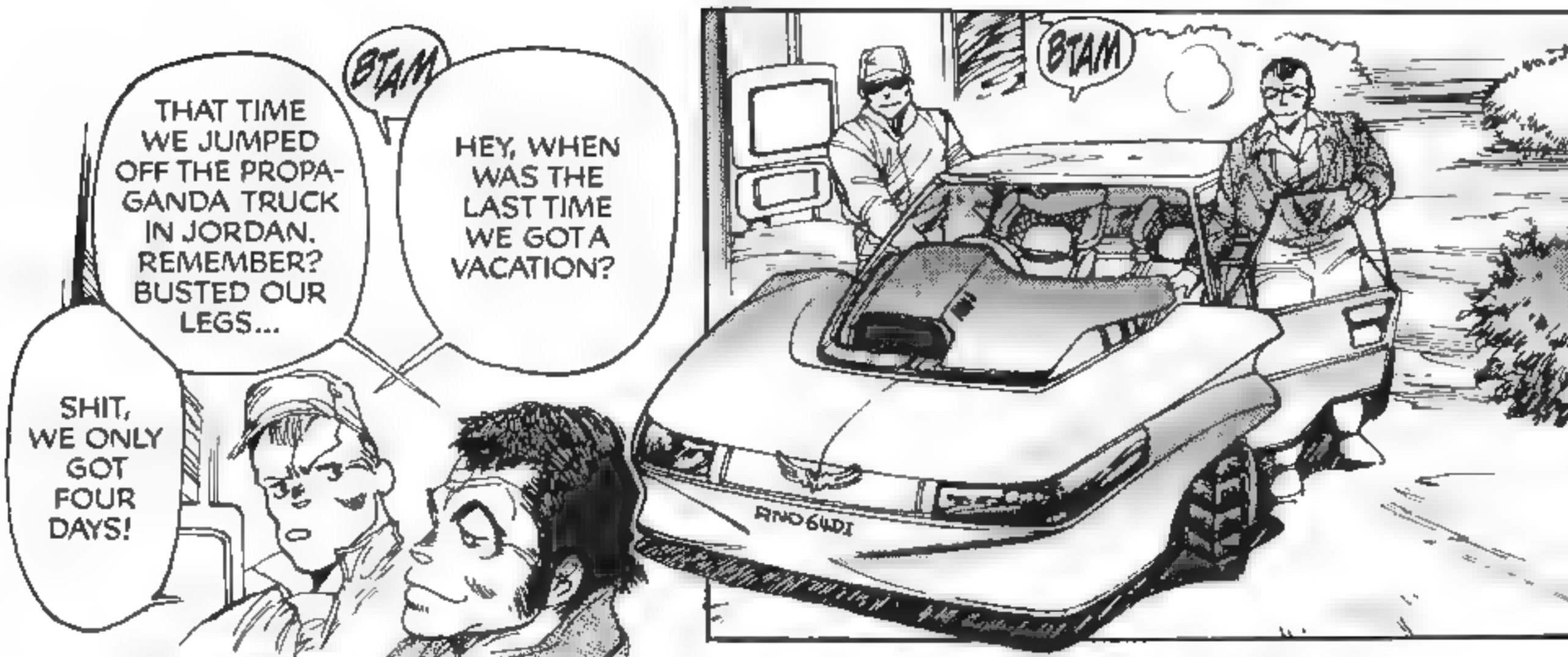
KRIK
KRIK
POP

FX STRETCH
FX POP
FX POP
FX KRIK



HMM



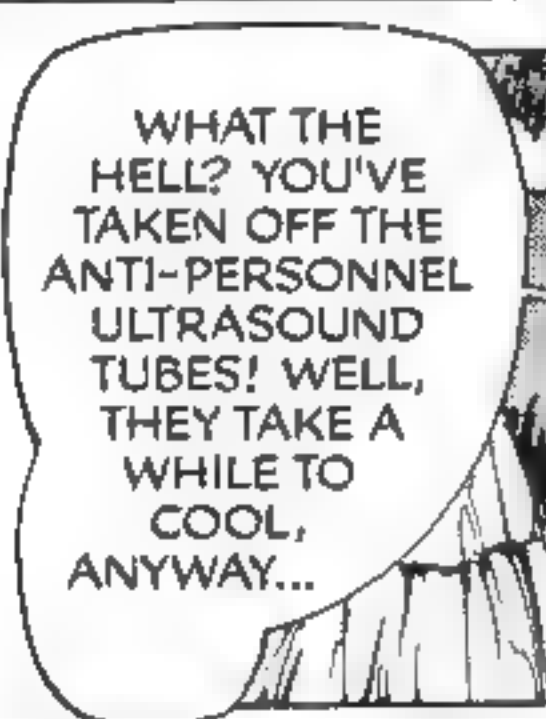




TWO
"MAY
QUEENS"
IN THE
BACK.
SIGN FOR
THEM,
PLEASE.



GOT
OUR
LANDMATES
FOR US?



WHAT THE
HELL? YOU'VE
TAKEN OFF THE
ANTI-PERSONNEL
ULTRASOUND
TUBES! WELL,
THEY TAKE A
WHILE TO
COOL,
ANYWAY...



MY NIGHTS
AREN'T FREE--
I HAVE
CHILDREN.

BEEP

OLYMPUS
MECHANICS

C'MON
DARLIN'..
WHY
NOT?

*FX VNNNN



STRICTLY
"CODE OF
HAMMU-
RABI,"
HMM?

HEY, WE'LL
LET YOU
GUYS ARREST
HER AND
BRING HER
IN--LEAVE
IT TO THE
EXPERTS,
RIGHT?

*FX KSSHHHH



HEH
HEH



DON'T ALL THESE THINGS STICKING OUT GET IN YOUR WAY?

CHRIST, THIS ARMOR DOESN'T DO A DAMN THING FOR YOUR HEAD OR YOUR BALLS--WHAT IDIOT DESIGNED THIS?!

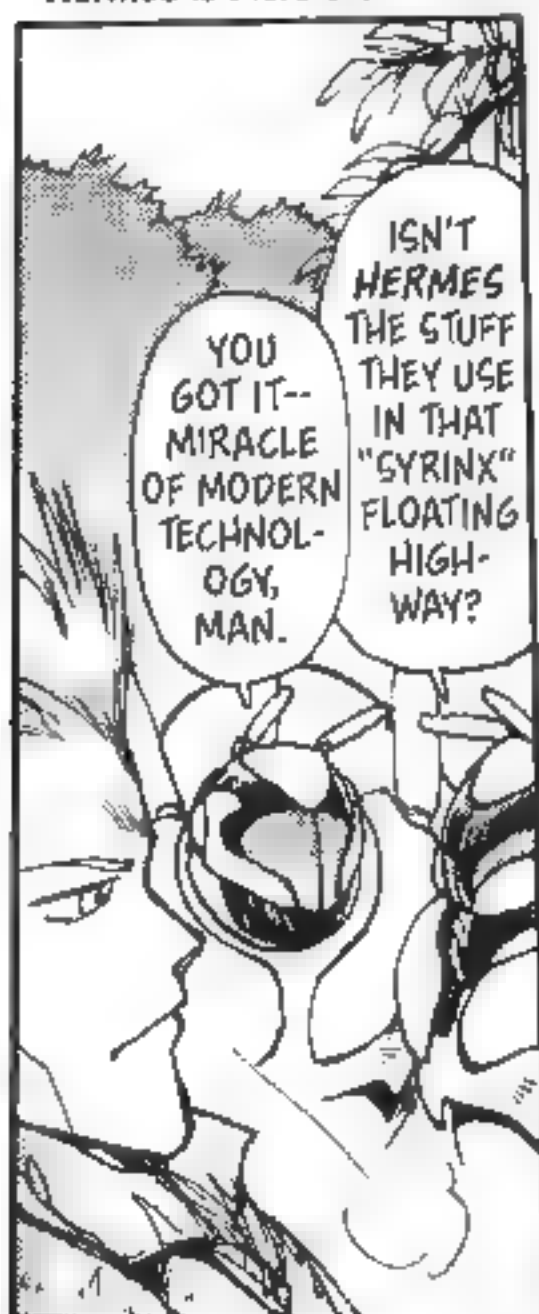
BLOODY EMBARRASSMENT TO WEAR AT MY AGE

...THE NUCLEONS EITHER SCATTER DUE TO CHARGE SUPPRESSION, OR THEY IMplode DUE TO A TRANSIENT PEAK IN THE STRONG NUCLEAR FORCE.

IF THEY FAIL, THE HOGAN EFFECT DISTRESSES AND THE FIELDS COLLAPSE. WHEN *THAT* HAPPENS...

THOSE HOLD THE FIELD CONTAINMENT COILS--THEY WRAP THE *HERMES* INSIDE A MAGNETIC "BUBBLE," SHIFT IT IN AND OUT OF PHASE.

Hermes is therefore not a new material, but a new state of matter



YOU GOT IT--MIRACLE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY, MAN.

ISN'T *HERMES* THE STUFF THEY USE IN THAT "SYRINX" FLOATING HIGHWAY?

ABOUT ONE-SIXTH OF NORMAL. IF THERE WEREN'T AN ALL-WEATHER SPEC WE COULD HAVE BROUGHT IT IN AT NEGATIVE TEN POUNDS.

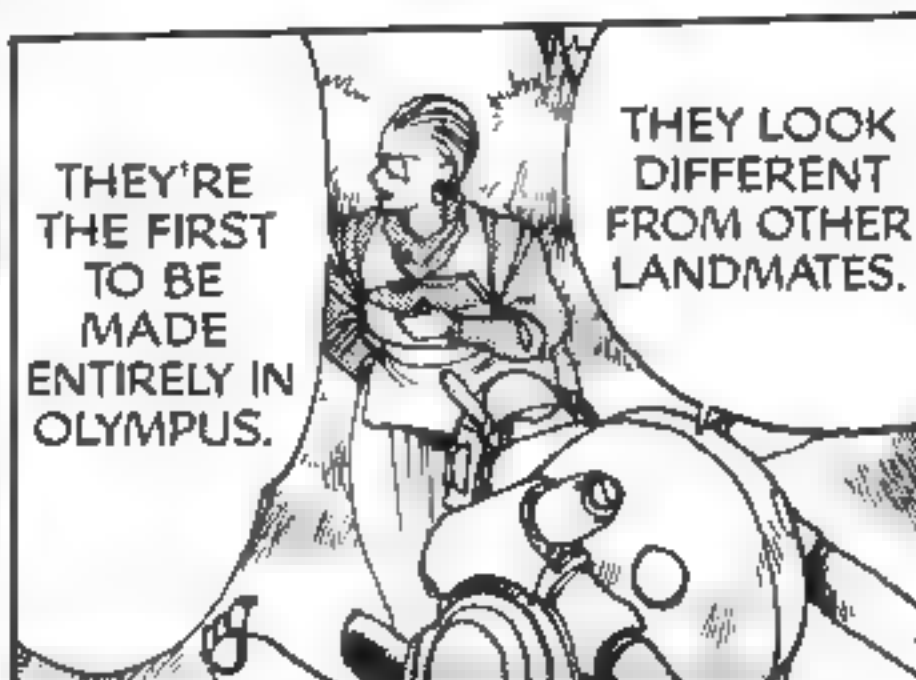
SO WE HAVE THE *HERMES* ANTIGRAVITY EFFECT TO THANK FOR THIS HUNDRED-POUND OPERATIONAL WEIGHT?

COMPLETELY SILENT, TOO. NOT BAD, HMM?



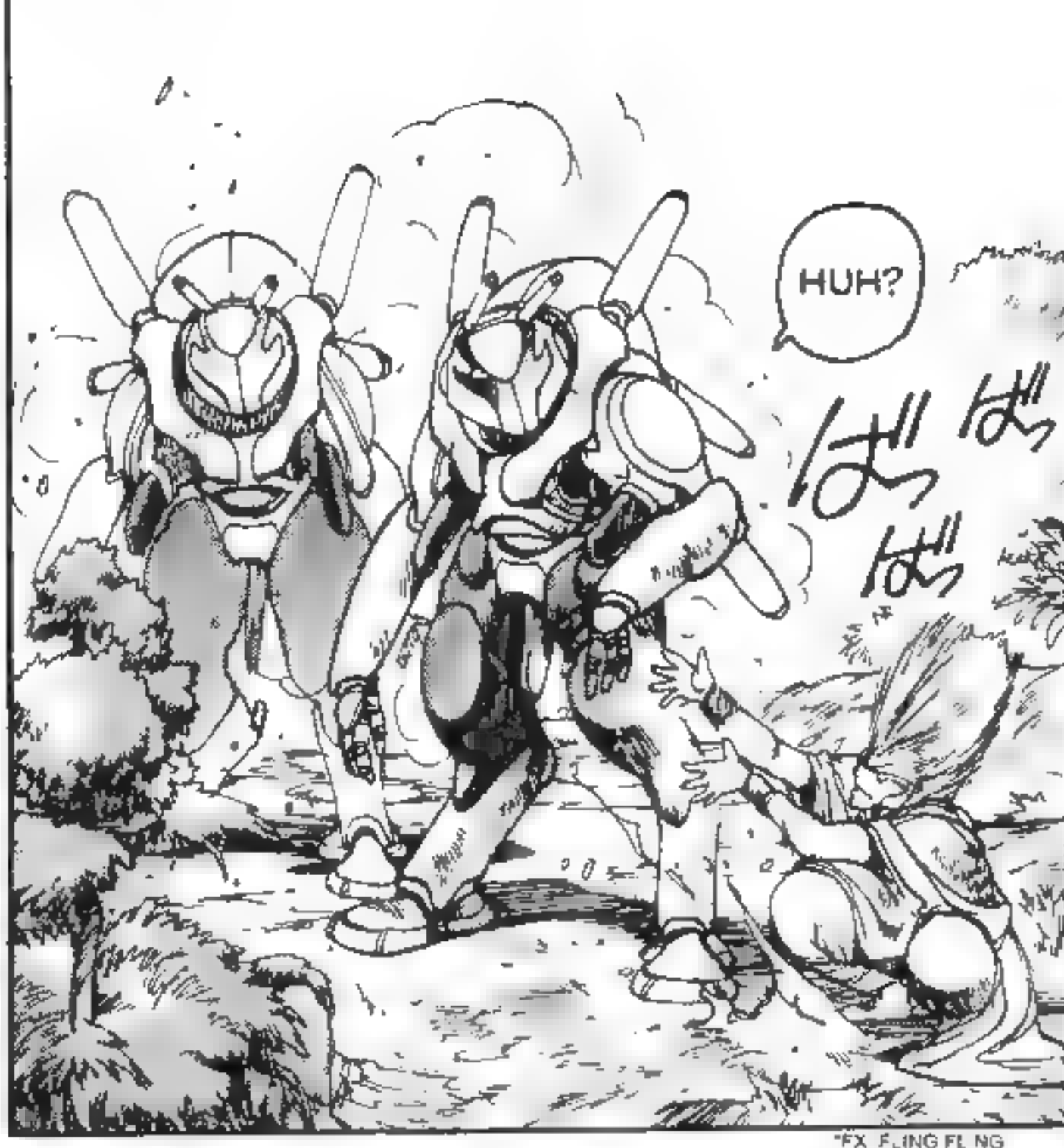
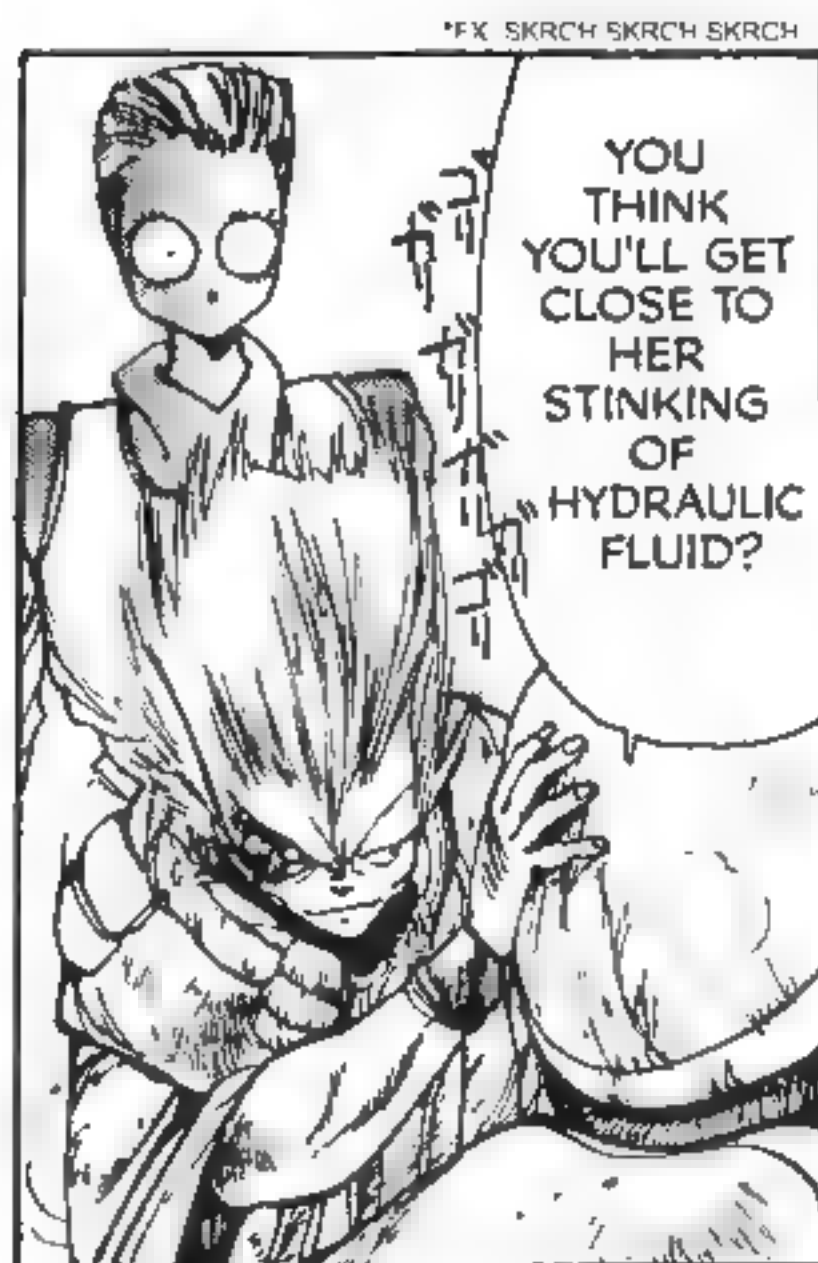
NOT THAT GUY WHO HAD TO GO TO HELL AND RESCUE SOMEONE? THAT'S JUST GODDAMN GREAT!

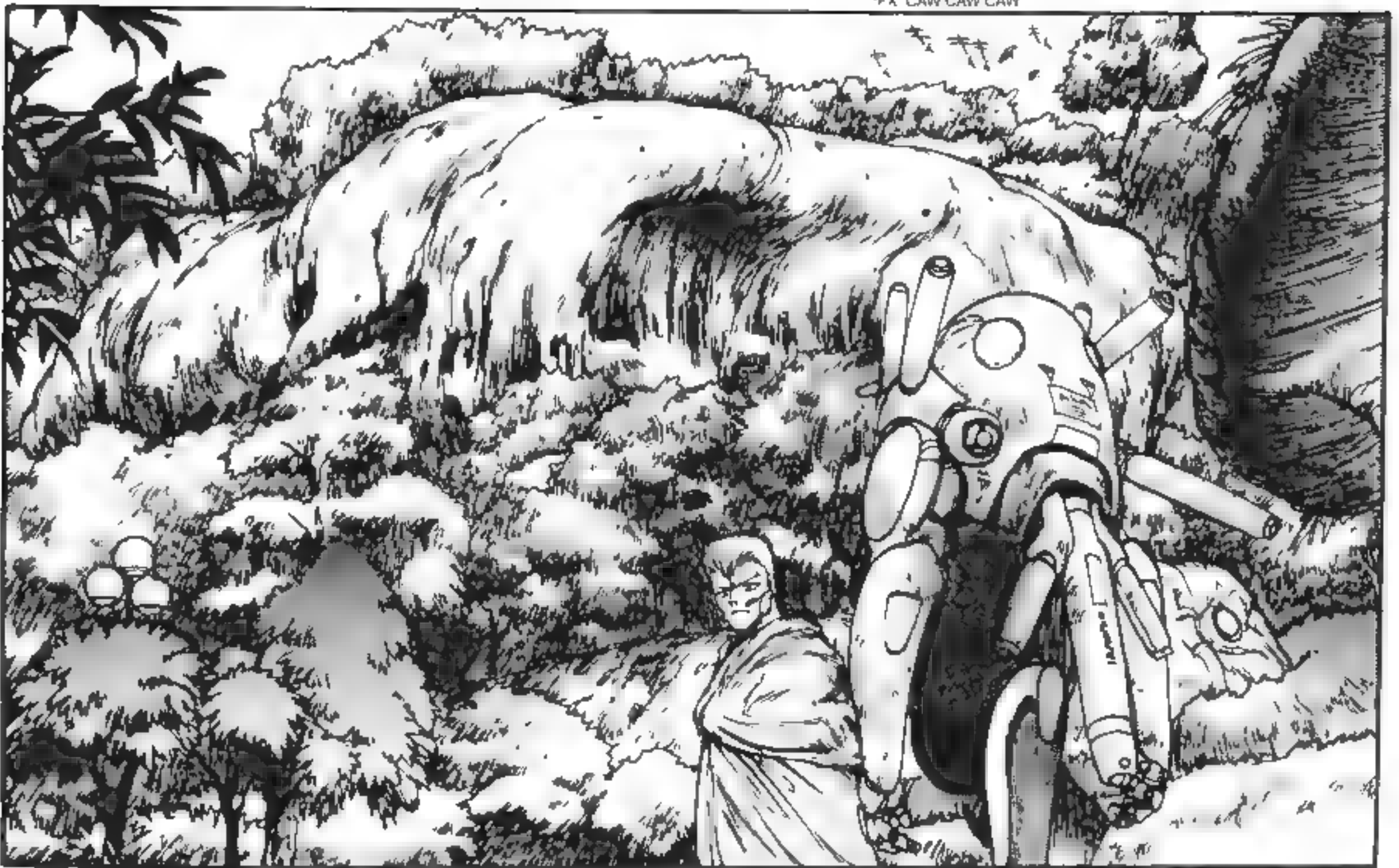
YOU'RE WEARING AN UPDATED VERSION, AN "OR-PHEUS."



THEY'RE THE FIRST TO BE MADE ENTIRELY IN OLYMPUS.

THEY LOOK DIFFERENT FROM OTHER LANDMATES.





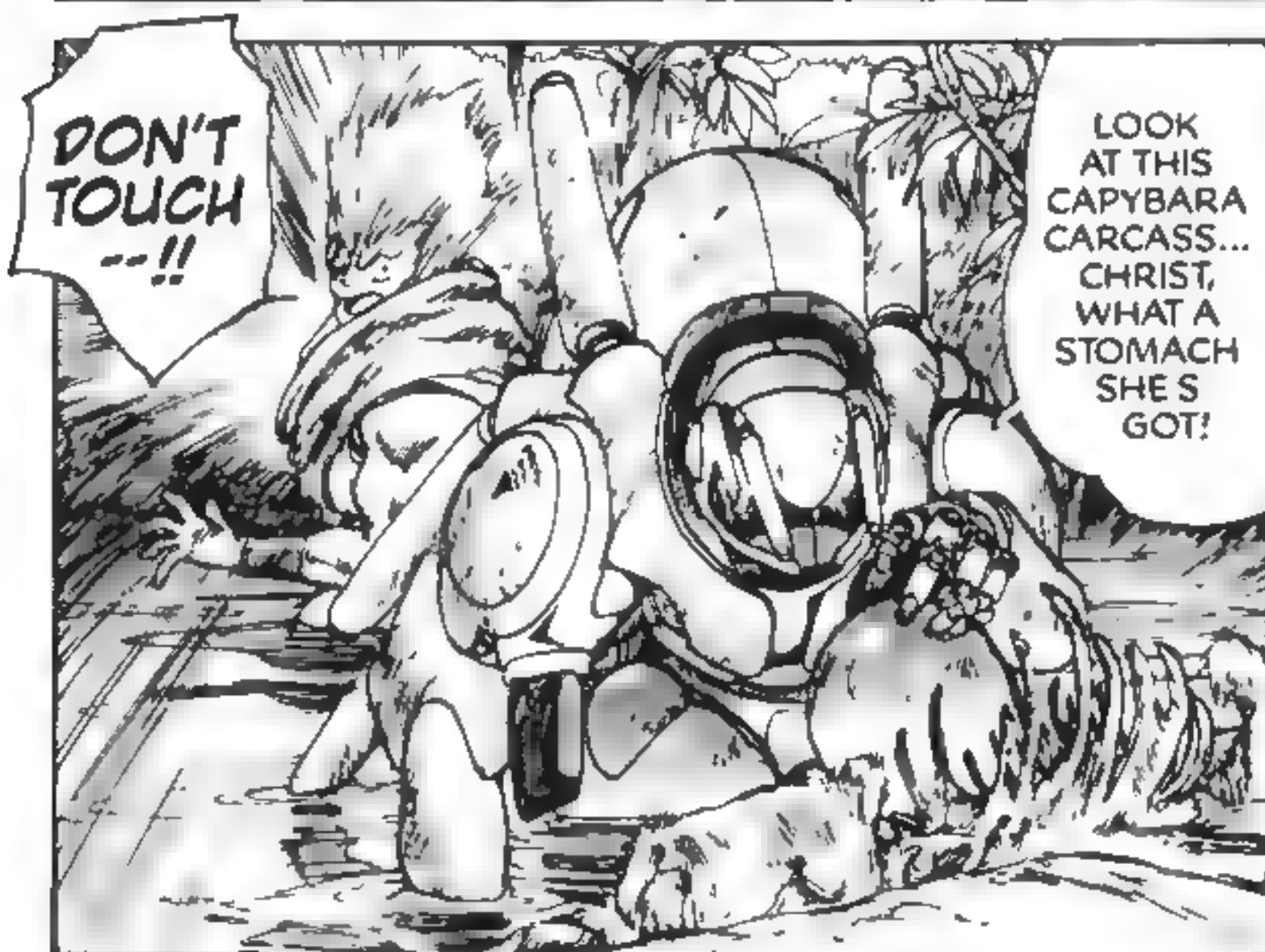


SHOULDN'T
HAVE
RESTRIC-
TIONS IN
A PLACE
LIKE
THIS.

A TASTE OF
ANCIENT DAYS...

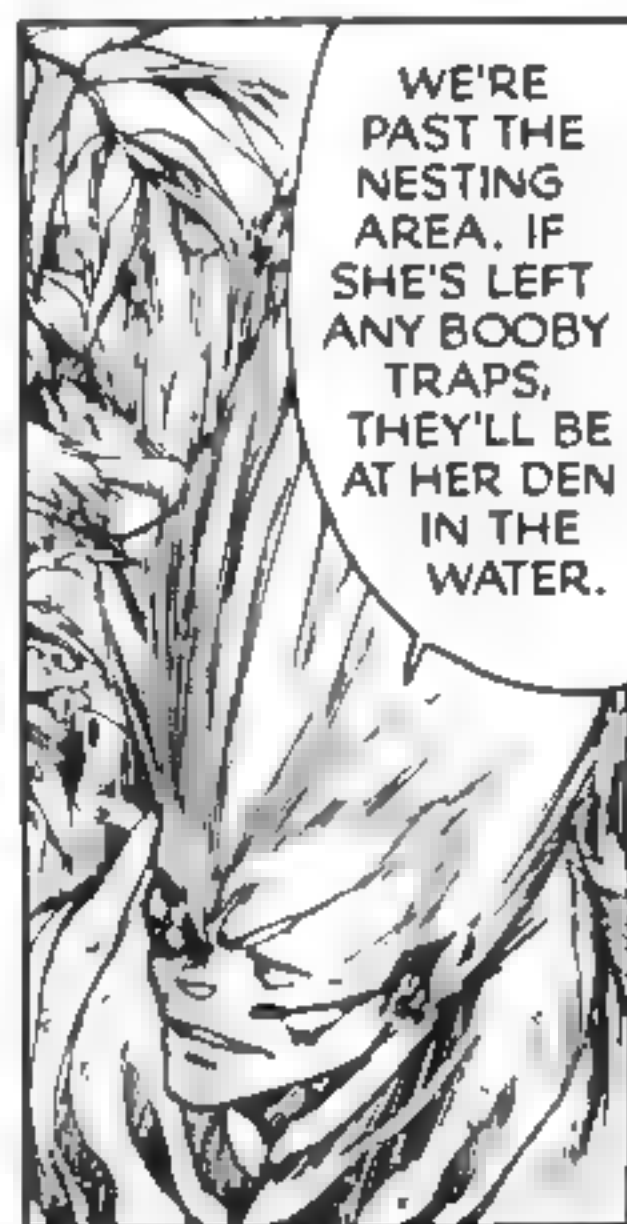


OFFICIALLY,
THIS AREA IS
OFF LIMITS TO
VEHICLES.
MULTI-LEGGED
WALKERS ARE
ACCEPTABLE.

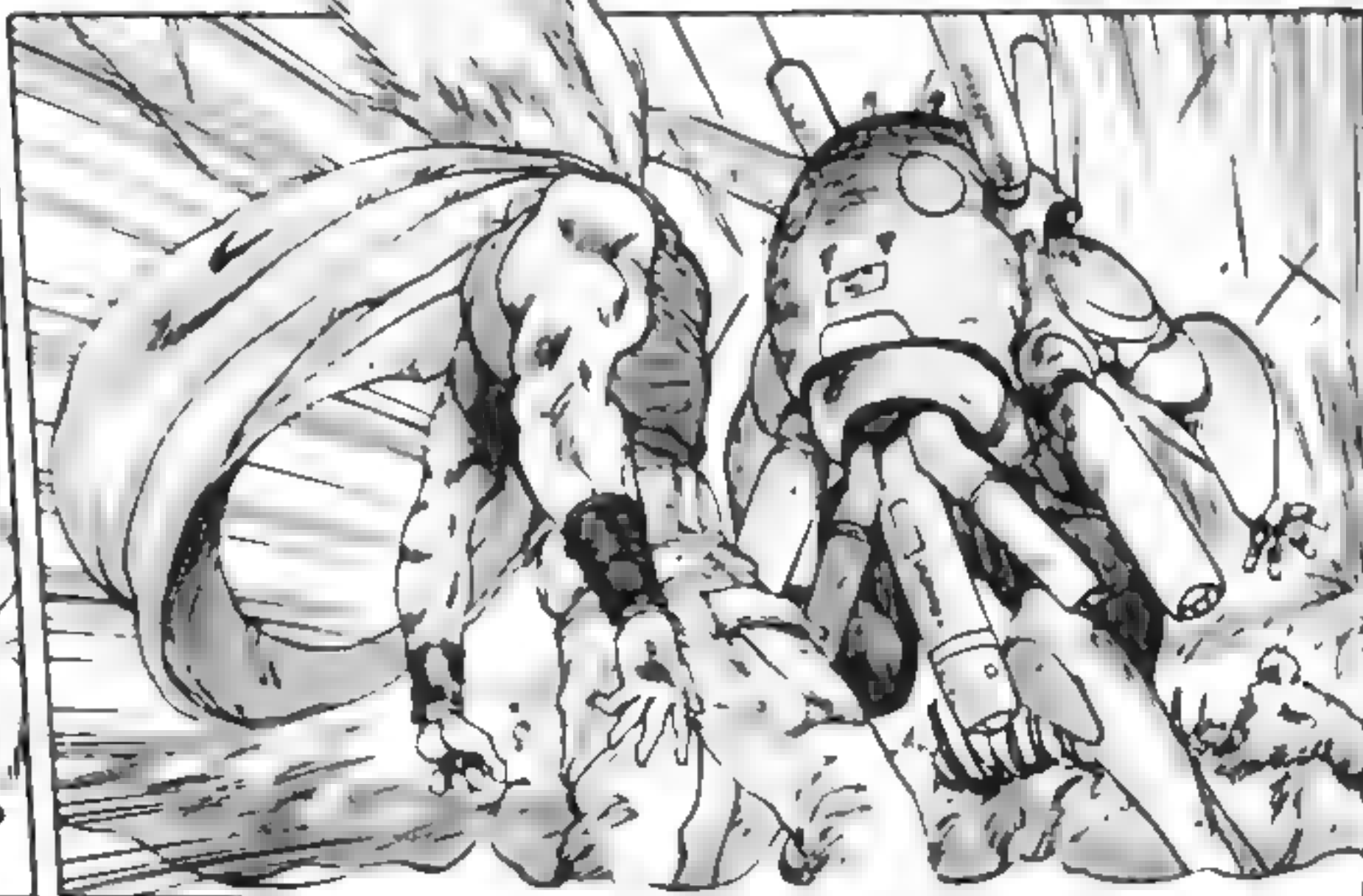
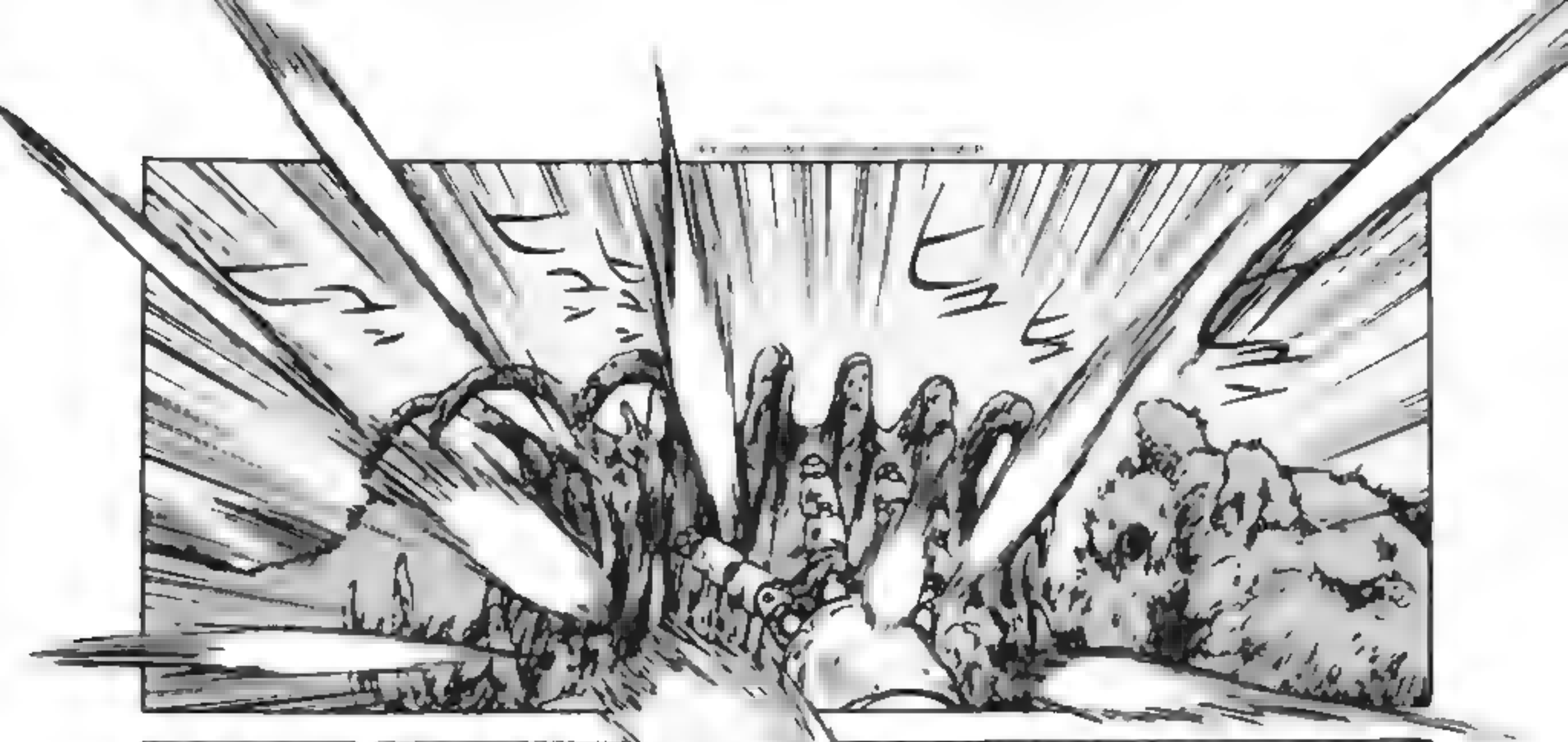


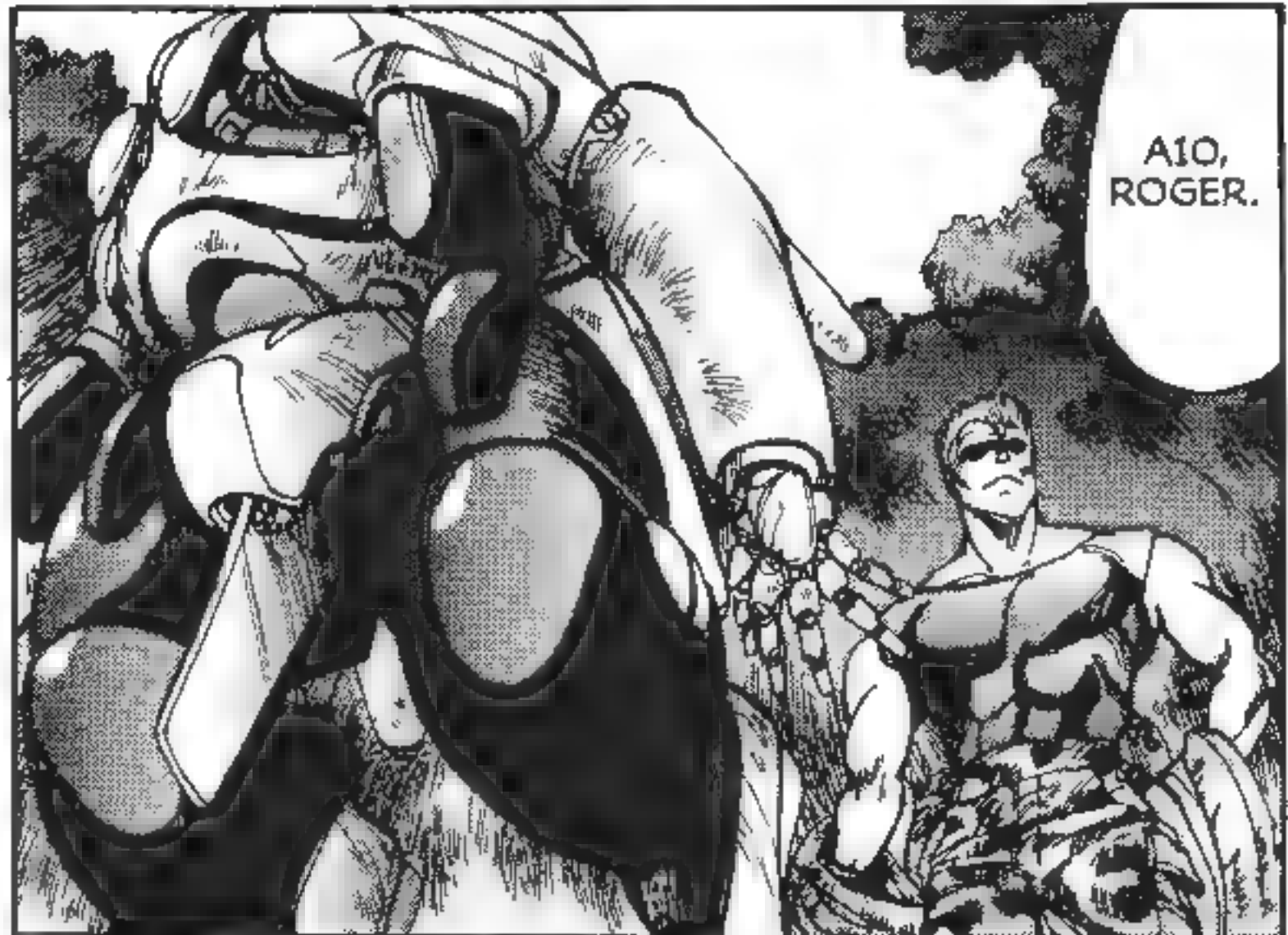
DON'T
TOUCH
--!!

LOOK
AT THIS
CAPYBARA
CARCASS...
CHRIST,
WHAT A
STOMACH
SHE'S
GOT!



WE'RE
PAST THE
NESTING
AREA. IF
SHE'S LEFT
ANY BOOBY
TRAPS,
THEY'LL BE
AT HER DEN
IN THE
WATER.

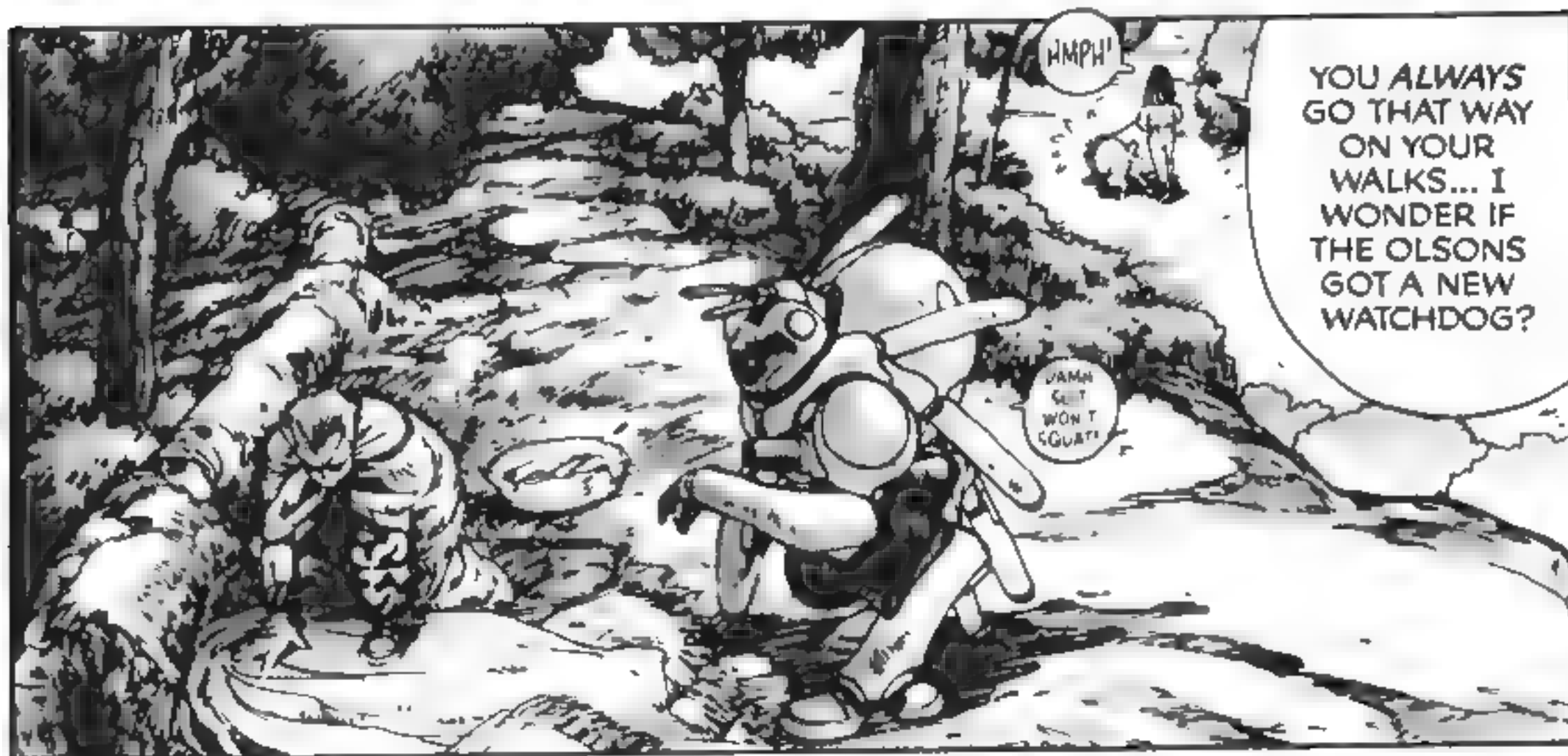






NOW
WHAT'S
WRONG?
REALLY,
MATRIX,
WHAT'S
GOTTEN INTO
YOU...?

YIKE!
YIKE!



YOU ALWAYS
GO THAT WAY
ON YOUR
WALKS... I
WONDER IF
THE OLSONS
GOT A NEW
WATCHDOG?

HMPH!

JAMN
SEIT
WON'T
GUARD



SHE'S COVERED
HERSELF IN ALL
DIRECTIONS-- CAN
HEAR AN INTRUDER'S
FOOTSTEPS-- ISN'T
BOTHERED BY
INSECTS AND
SMALL ANIMALS
WHEN SHE'S
SLEEPING.

IT'S A
CATCHPOOL
FOR THE
BREEZE...
BRINGS HER
ALL THE
SMELLS
OFF THE
FOREST.

JUDGING
FROM THE
TRACE HEAT
SIGNATURE
ON THAT
BEDDING,
SHE CAN'T
BE FAR
AWAY.

AND SHE'S
A RE-AR
GOURNE



NOTE! Characteristic feline sightless powers of concentration



DAMN THINGS GAVE ME THE RUNS TOO

YA KNOW, THE ROBI TRIBE ON THE OUTER VOLTA IN AFRICA FISH WITH ARROWS LIKE THAT. I SEEN 'EM. WHEN I TRIED IT IN THE AMAZON, TOOK ME ALL DAY TO NAIL TWO CATFISH.

A10 TO A9, CALL MODE FOURTEEN, CODE THREE.

Upper volta: northern cote d'ivoire western ghana Bantux ken country in western africa

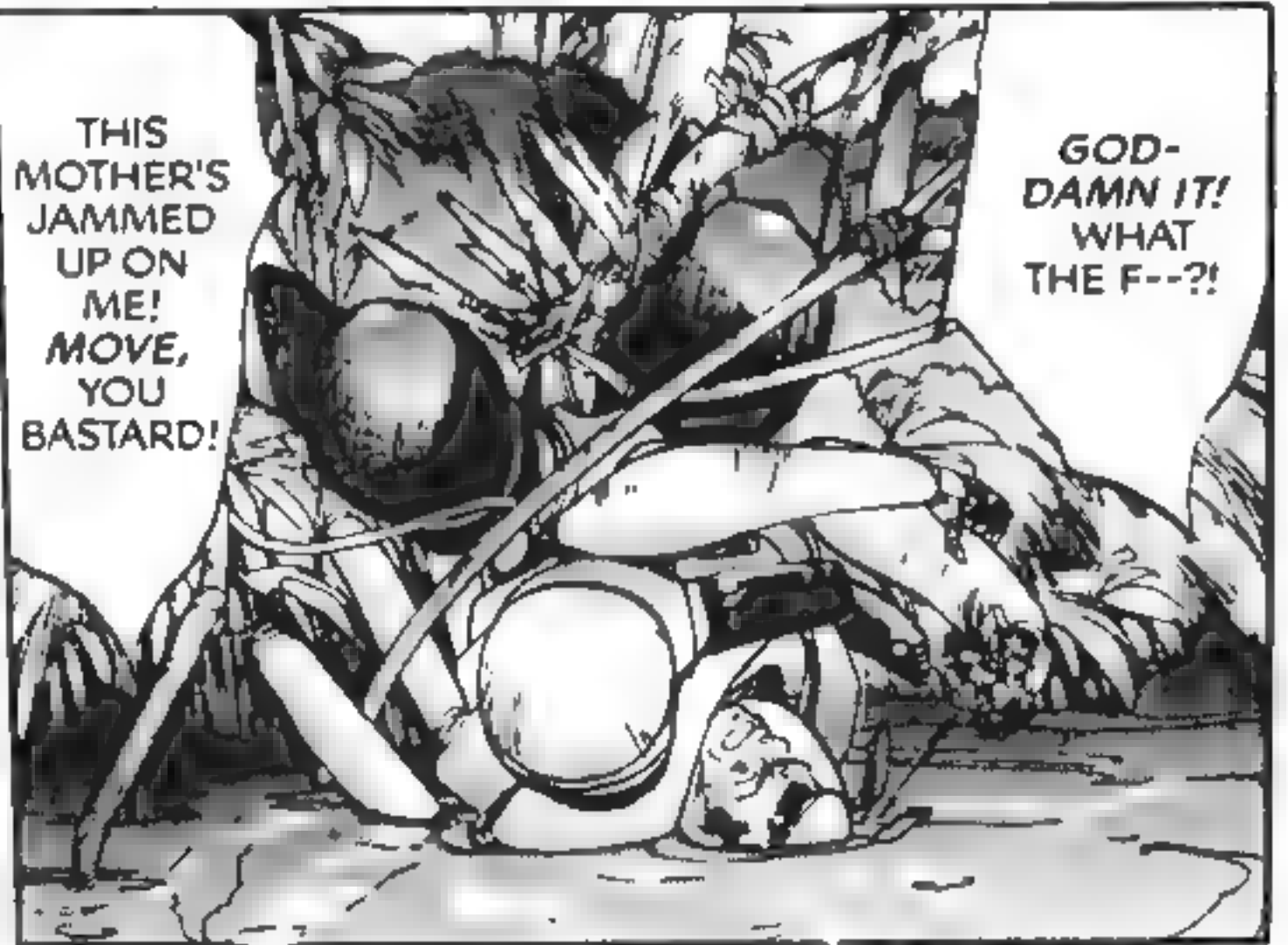






IT'S LEAKING!

OH, FRIGGIN' GREAT!!



THIS MOTHER'S JAMMED UP ON ME! MOVE, YOU BASTARD!

GOD-DAMN IT! WHAT THE F--?!



HAHH!



KRRK

KRRK

MOVE! MOVE!



JESUS, WHAT A GOD-DAMN JOKE!

HEY!

FX SHU SHU

OOPS.

FX THUK THUK

!

FX SHIF

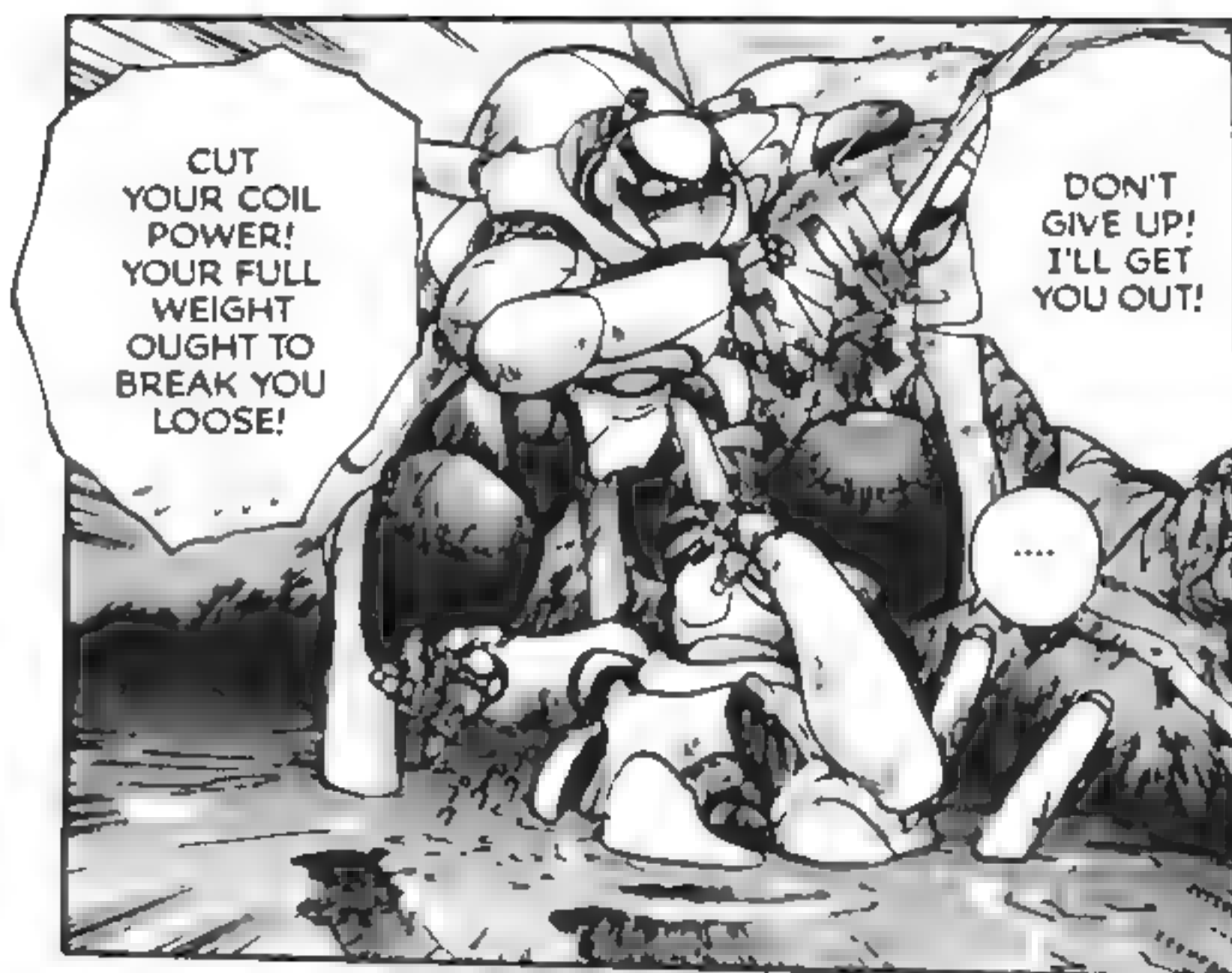
FX SPLASH

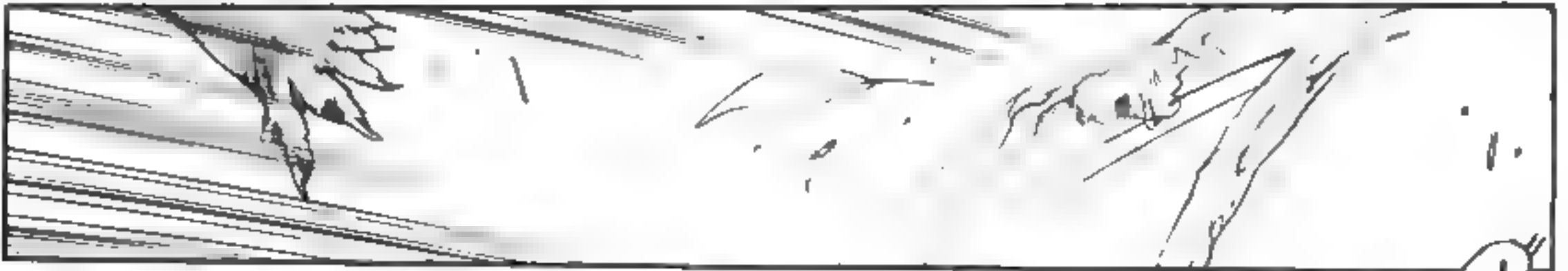
COVER
ME!!

HELP
ME, FOR
CHRIST'S
SAKE!

I'M
SINKING--
GLURG-

HEAD
HER
OFF!

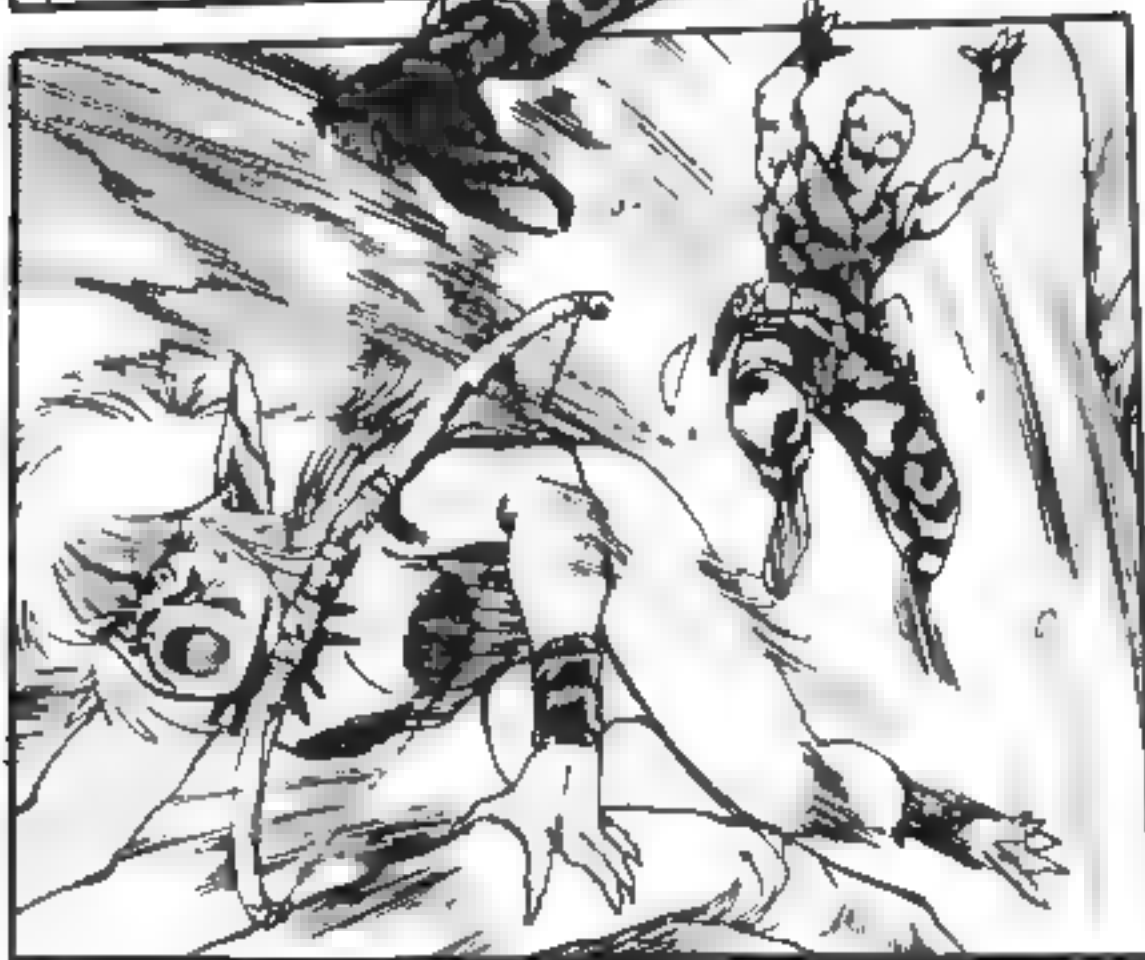


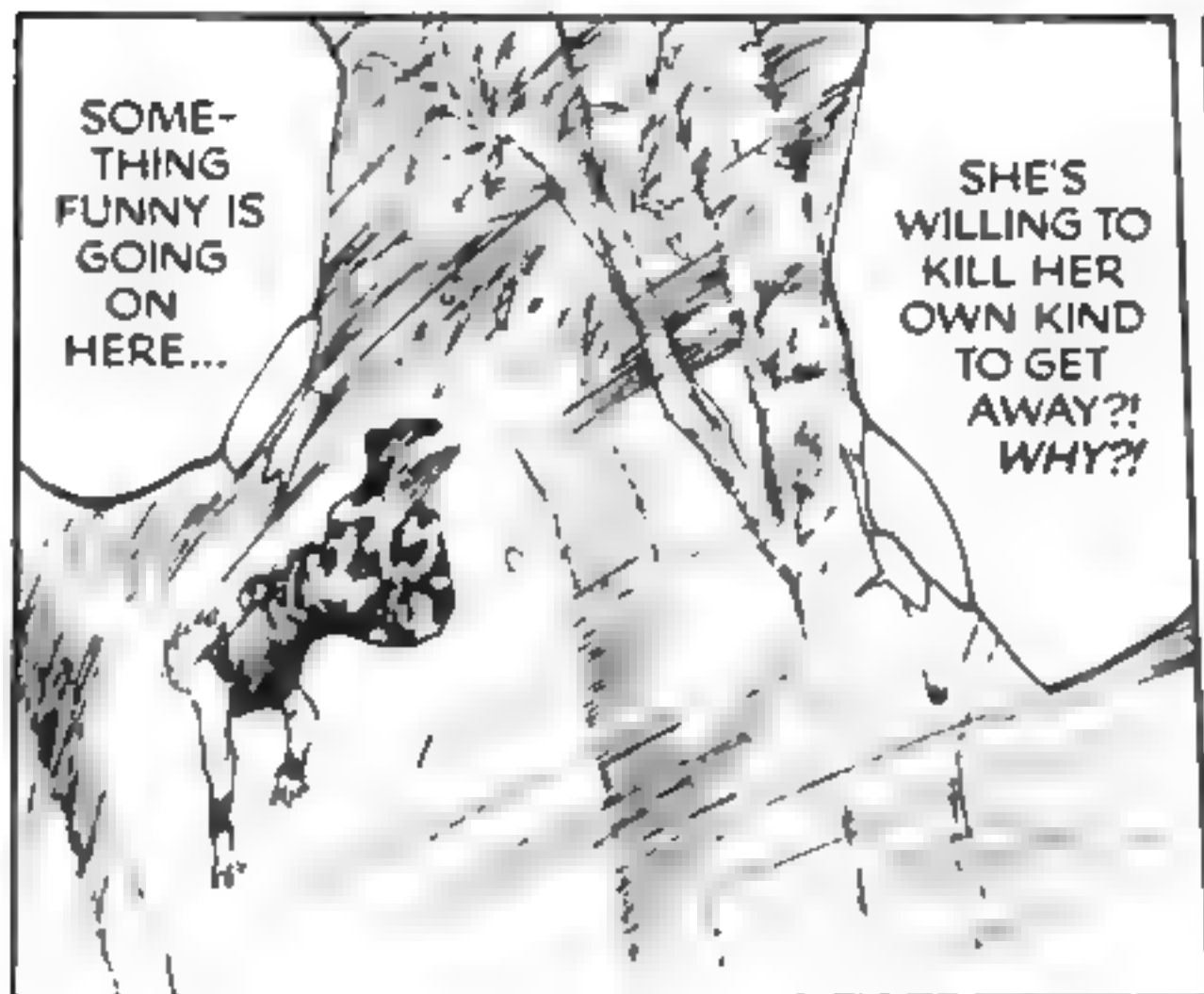


*FX FTANGG



*FX WHSST





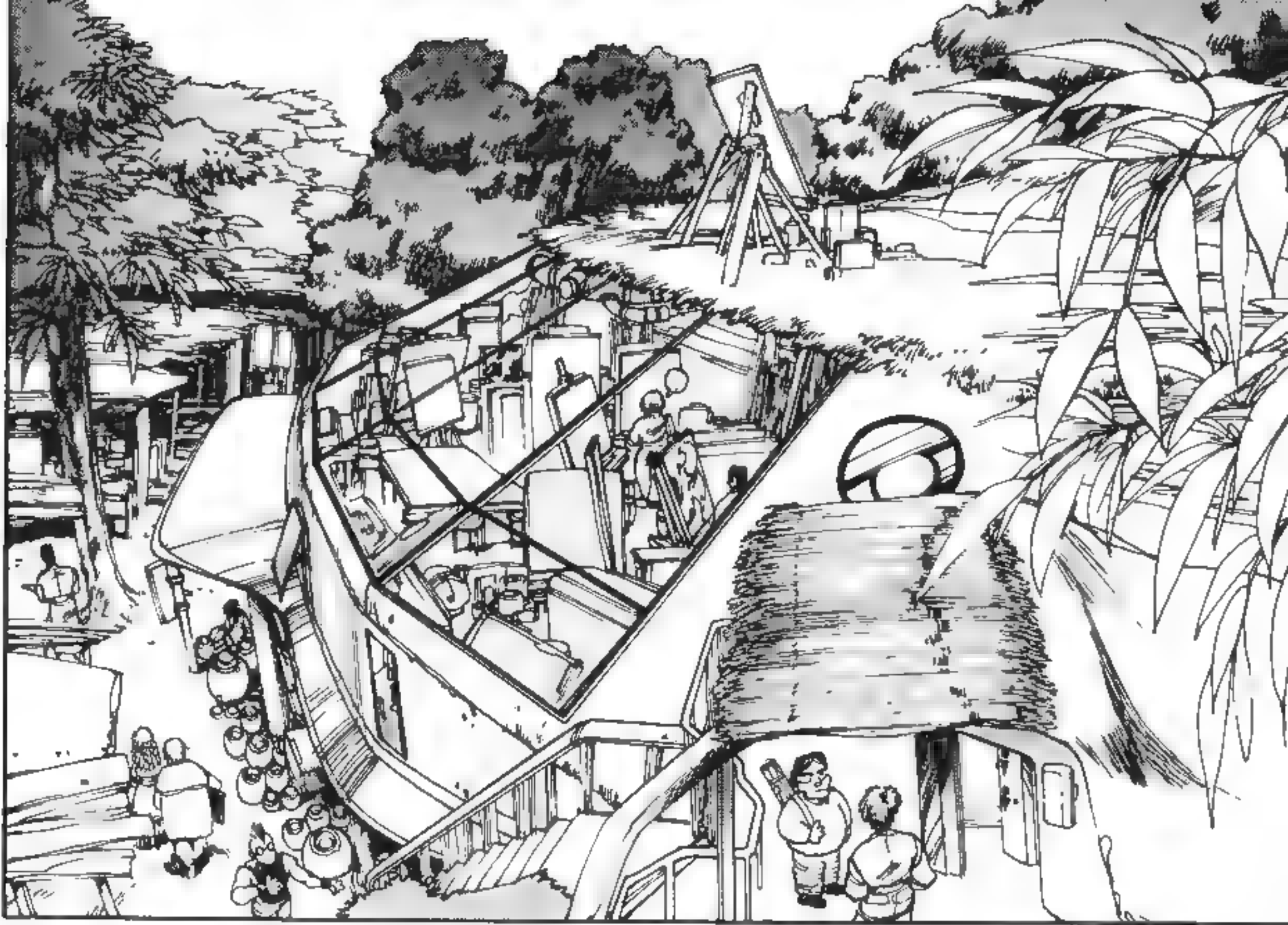
SOME-
THING
FUNNY IS
GOING
ON
HERE...

SHE'S
WILLING TO
KILL HER
OWN KIND
TO GET
AWAY?!
WHY?!



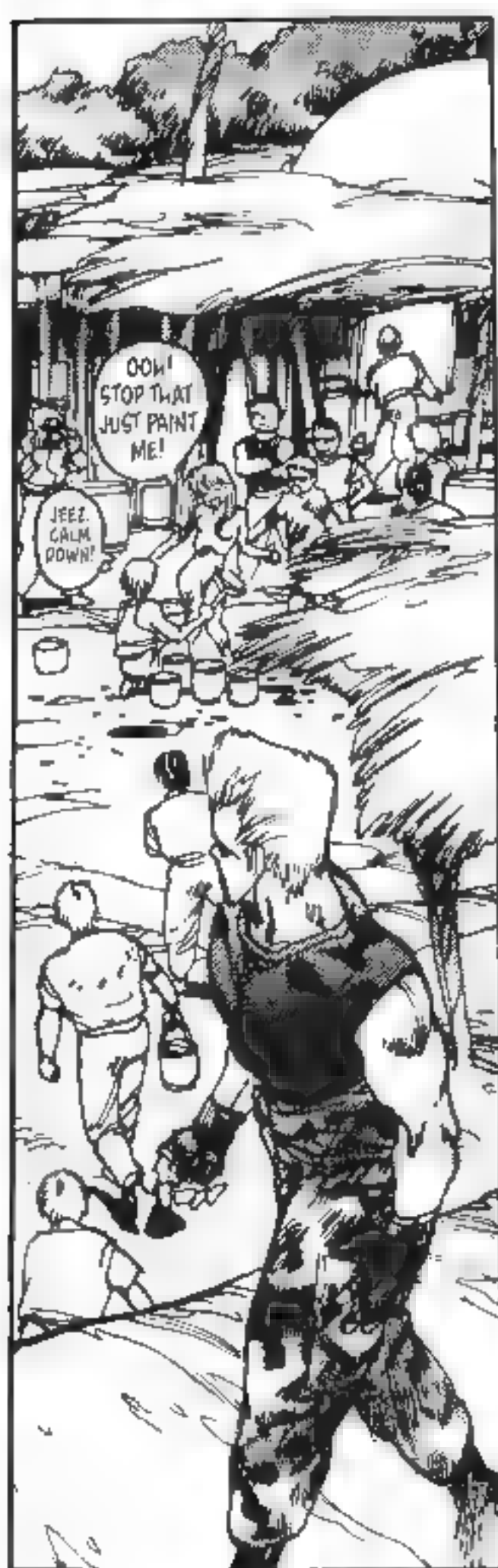
A BIOROID
SHOOTING AT
ANOTHER
BIOROID?!

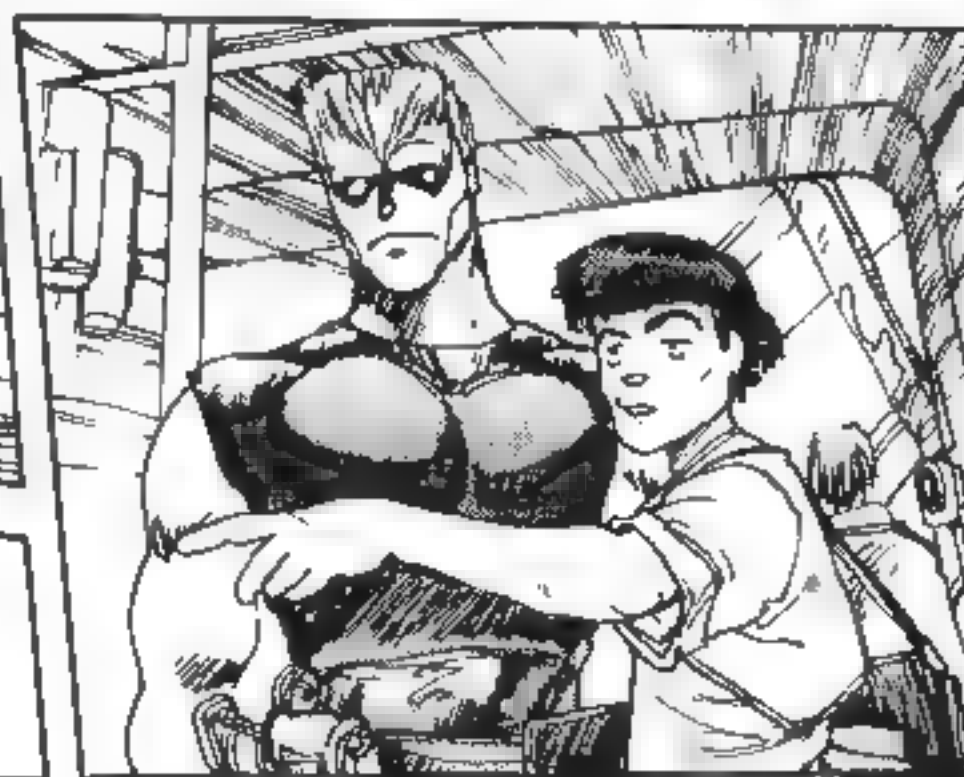
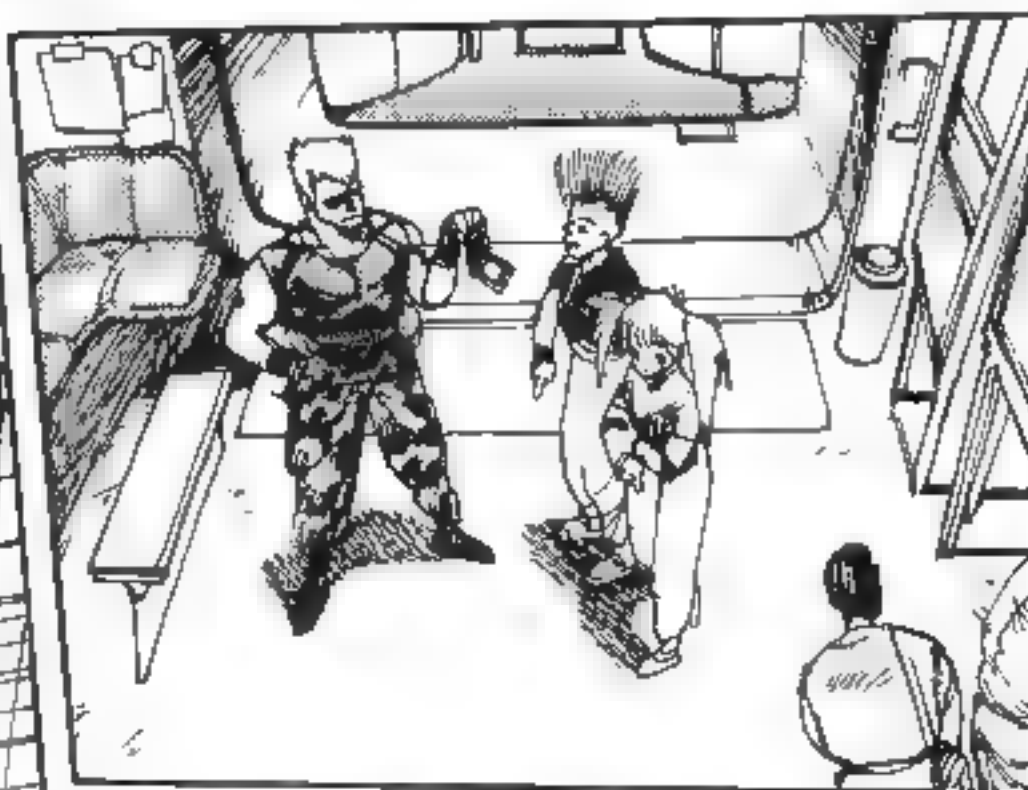
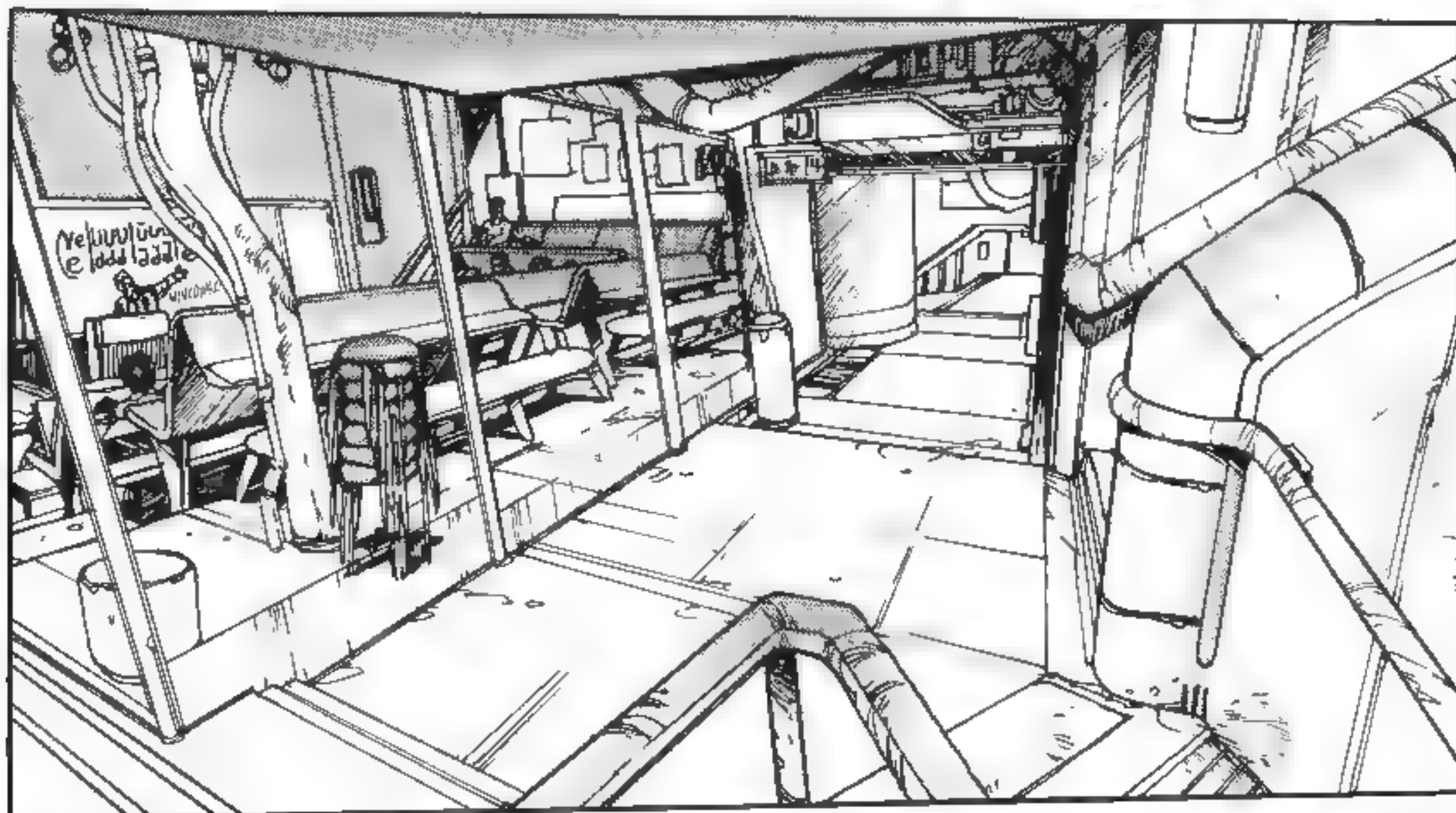
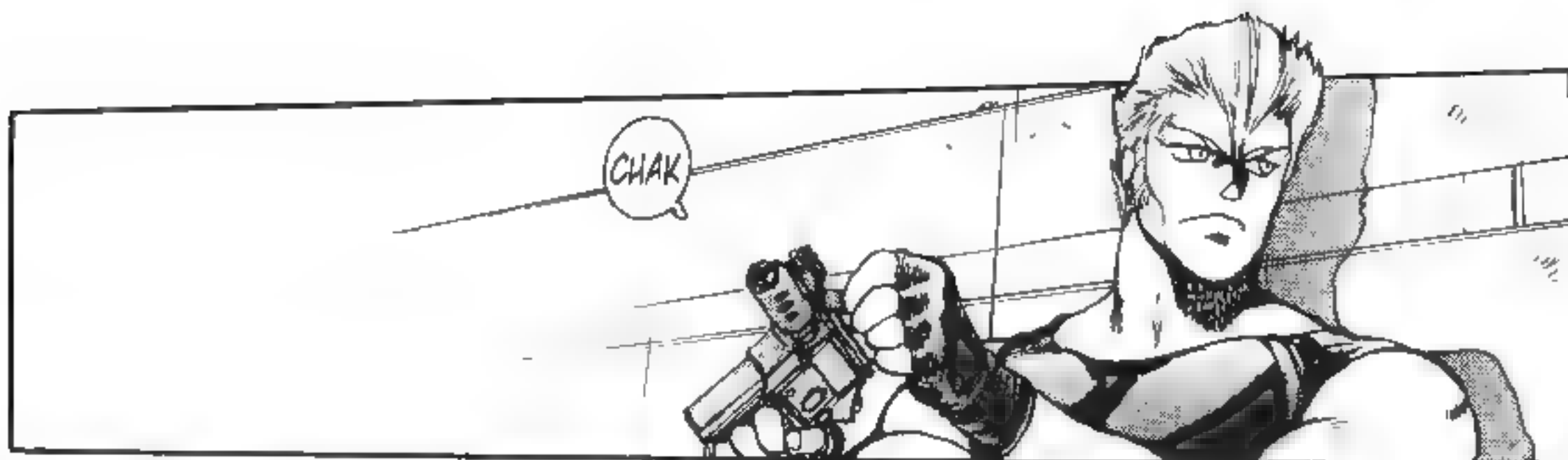
SHE MUST
HAVE
REALIZED
AT FIRST
GLANCE
THAT WE'RE
THE SAME
SPECIES!

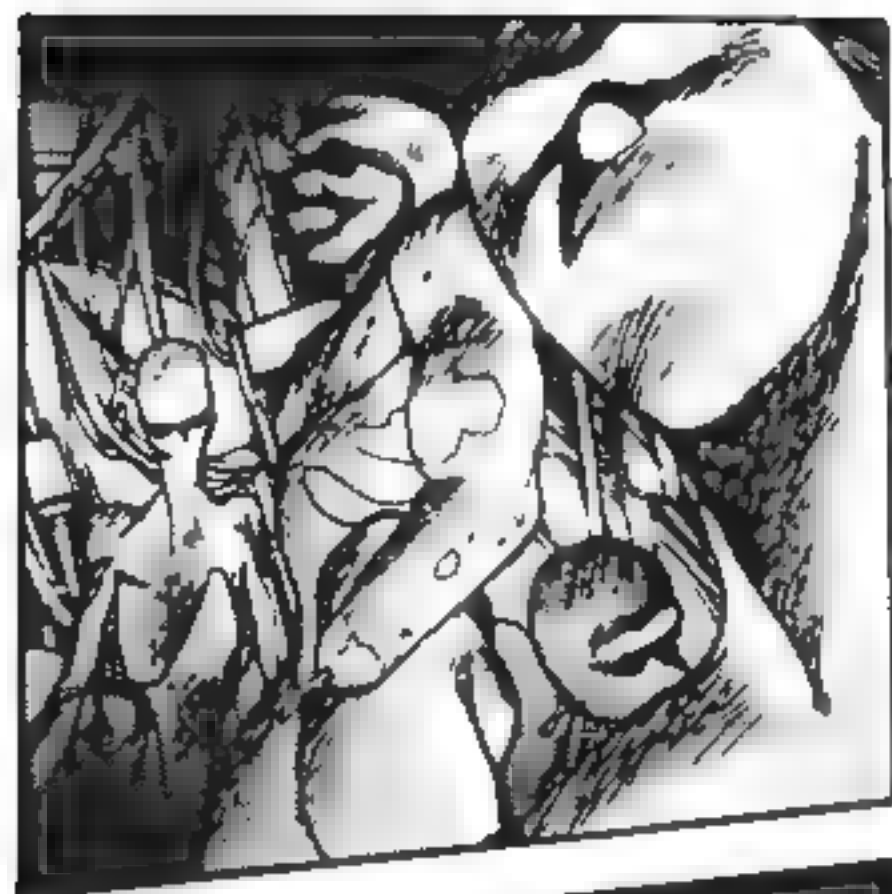


FX SKRASHH

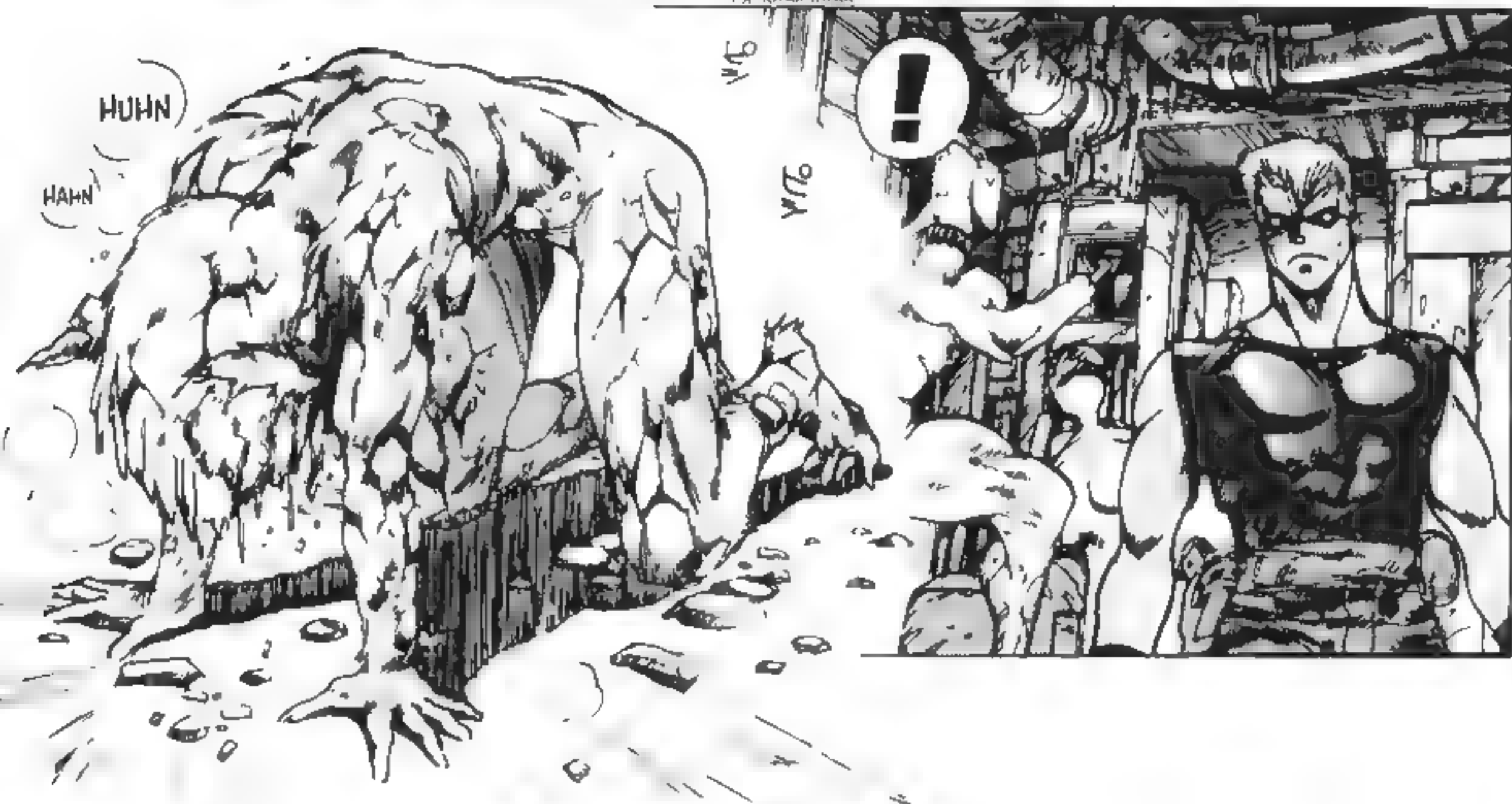


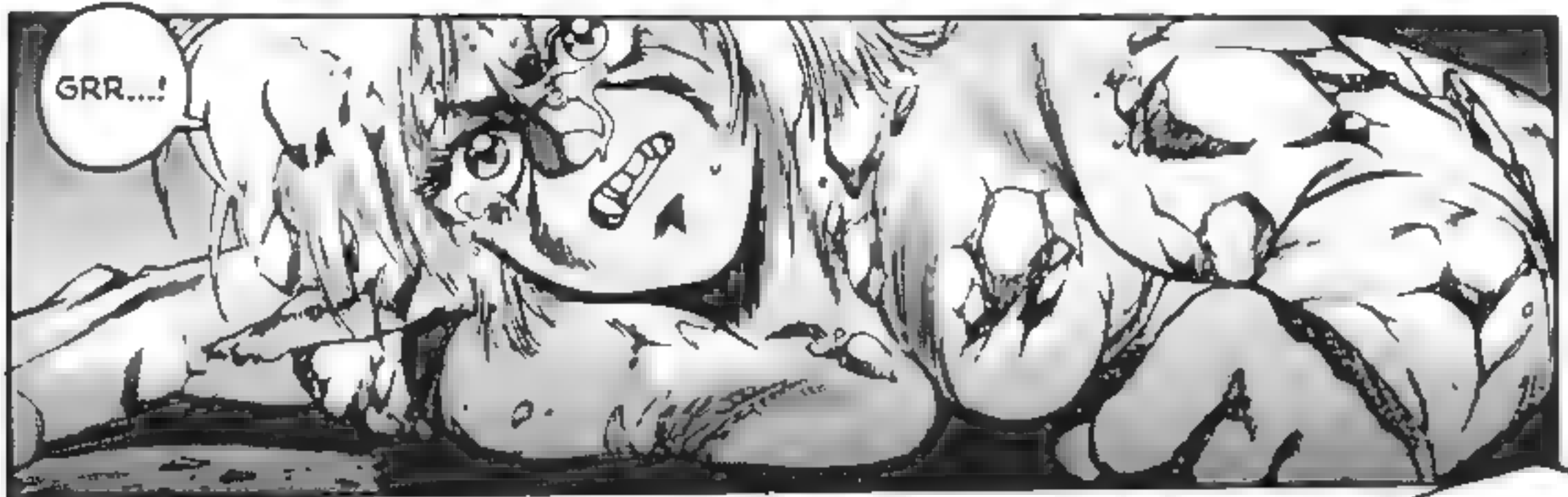






*FX KPAH KPAH







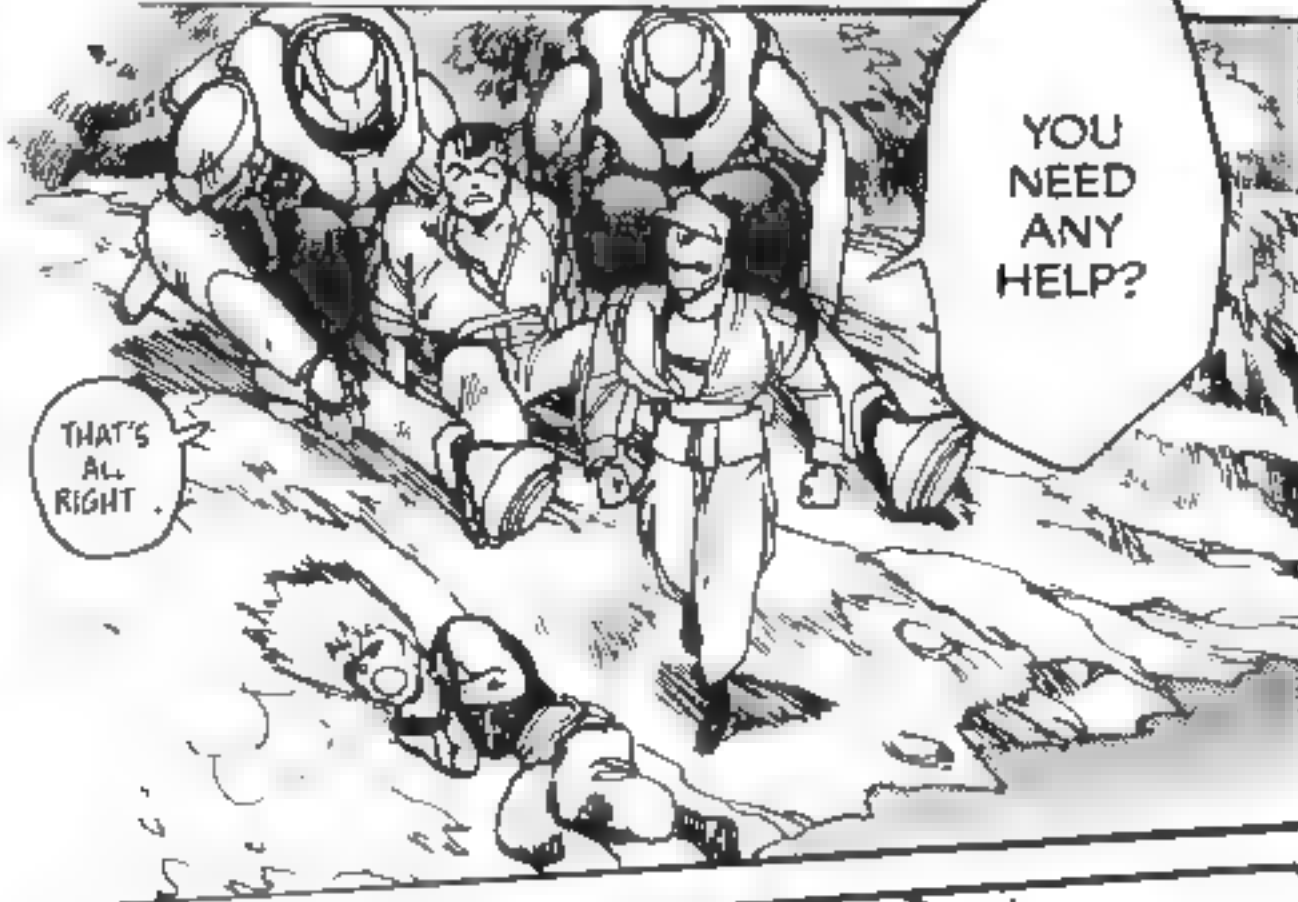
UNHHE

YOU'RE A
BIOROID---
DO YOUR
DUTY!

PTSS

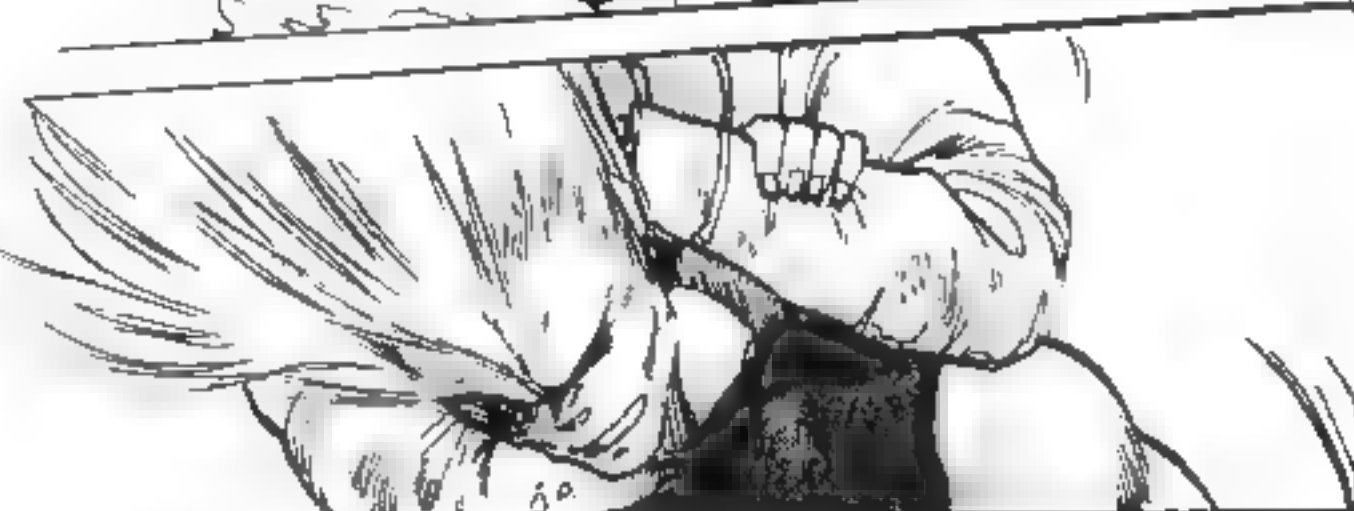
DO YOU
THINK YOU
COULD
PRETEND TO
BE A STATUE
AND HIDE
FOREVER?
LIFE ISN'T
SO EASY...

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



YOU
NEED
ANY
HELP?

THAT'S
ALL
RIGHT





*FX WHDD



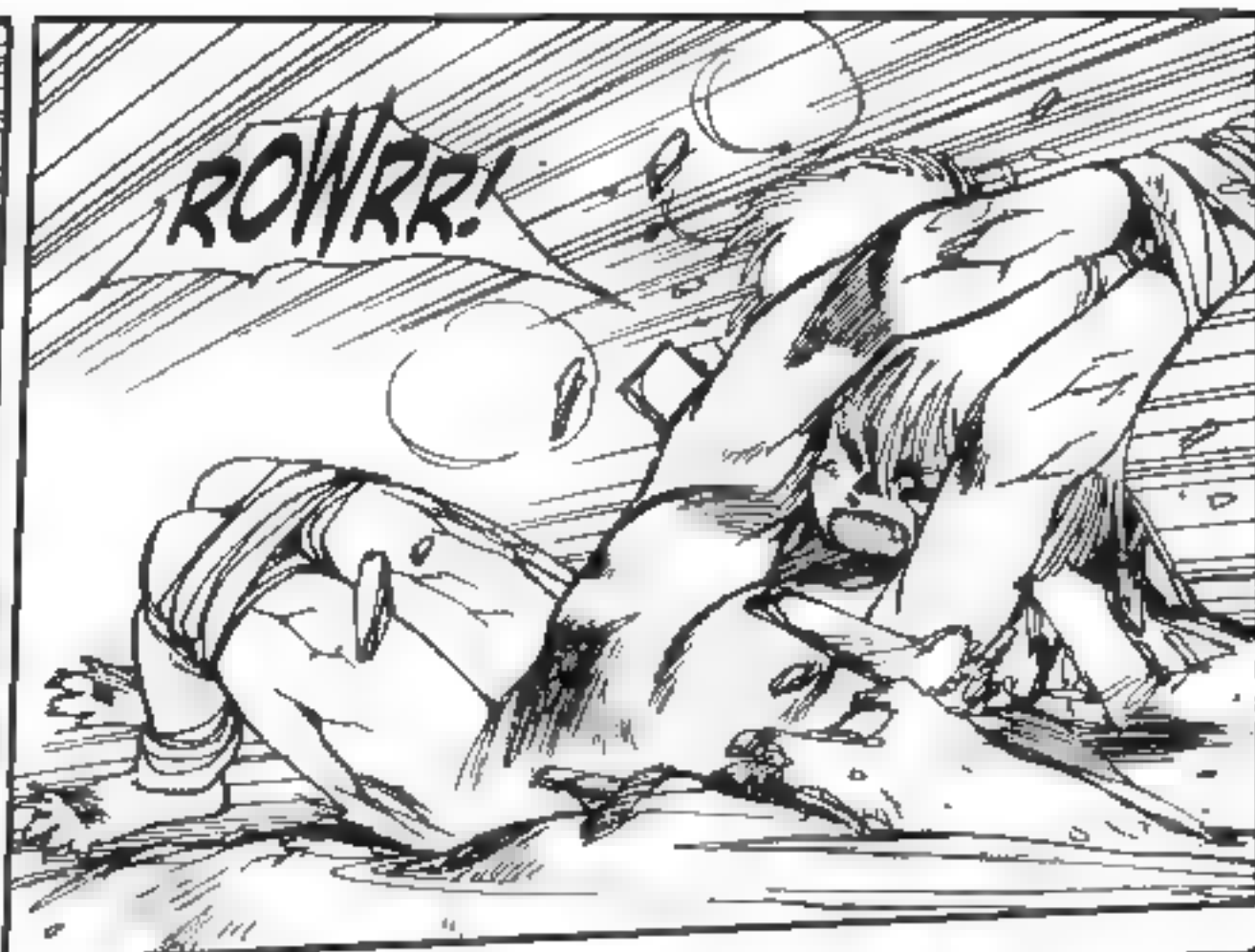
NO DYING
WITHOUT
PERMIS-
SION!

MOVE
YOURSELF,
YOU
FOOL!!
YOUR
SYSTEMS
ARE
FREEZING
UP!



IF WE
CAN
REVITALIZE
YOUR
CELLULAR
FUNC-
TIONS,
YOU'LL
STILL
PULL
THROUGH!





GUH...
GRANTED...

I'M GOING
TO INJECT
YOU WITH
KRONOXIN T5
AND
TERMINATE
YOUR LIFE-
EXTENSION
CYCLE.
PERMIS-
SION?

Life-extension cannot be terminated without the individual's consent.



YOU BASTARD!
CAN'T YOU
TELL THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
YOUR PARTNER
AND SOME
KIND OF
MACHINE?!

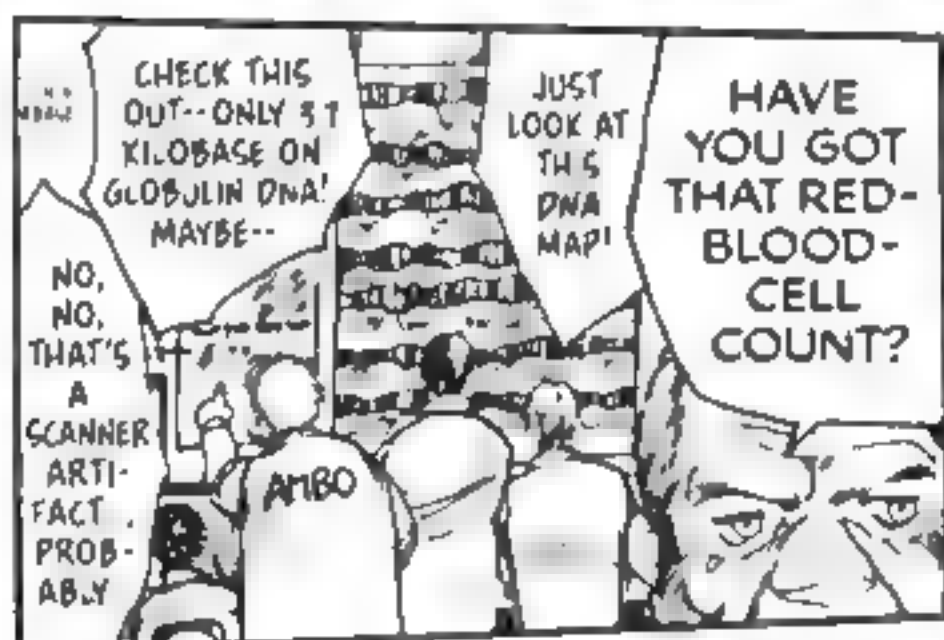
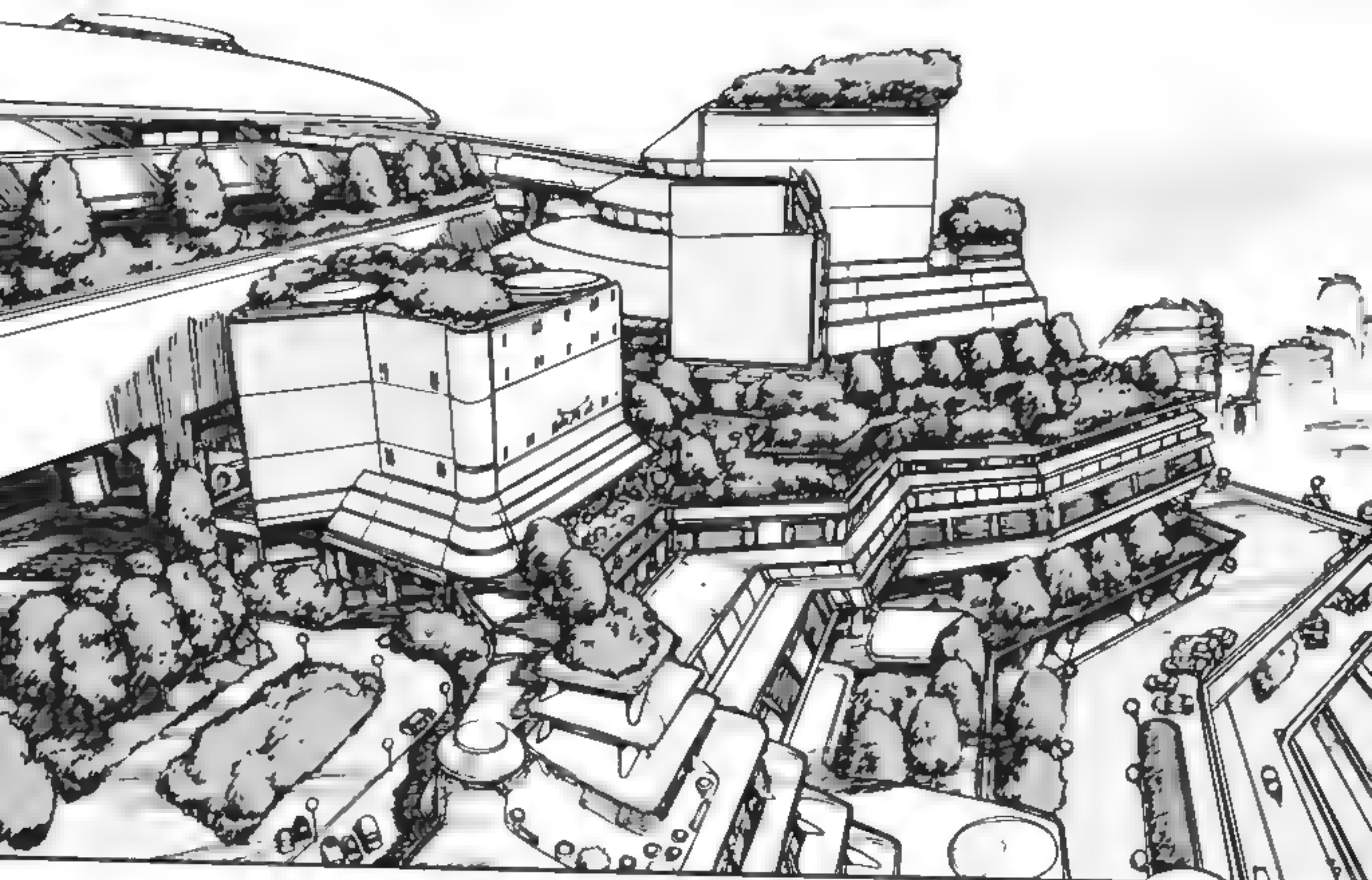


I'LL HAVE
TO CUT
OUT EIGHT
OF YOUR
ABSORP-
TION AND
FILTRATION
IMPLANTS.

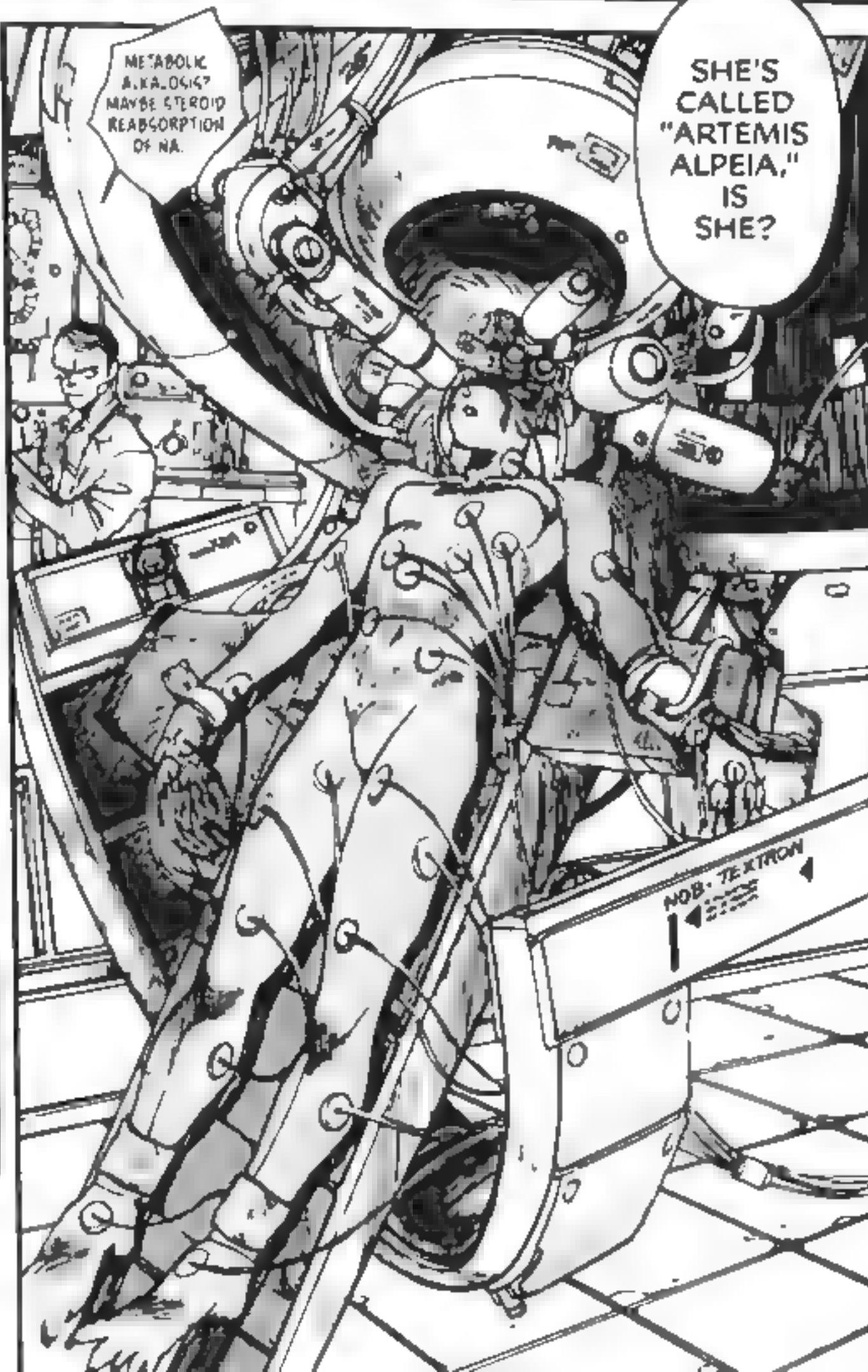
ONCE THE
SEDATIVES
TAKE
EFFECT, I'M
GOING TO
CUT INTO
YOUR UPPER
FILTRATION
MEMBRANE
AND
DRAIN THE
POISON.



CAN
YOU?!



Alpeia was a "white goddess" (c.F. Graves, et al). Also known as Alpina and by many other names





DON'T
BE AN
IDIOT.

NEXT TIME
MAKE HER
EASIER TO
CATCH.



JUST HOPE NO
ONE UPSTAIRS
STARTS BURYING
US UNDER
A PILE OF
CONTRADICTIONARY
DIRECTIVES.

THE CODE
DISTRIBUTION
MAP IS IN TWENTY-
EIGHT IMPLANTS.
THE CONVERSION
PROCESS USES
VOICEPRINTS FOR
A SPECIFIC
MEMORIZED
VOCABULARY...
IT'S GOING TO
TAKE DAYS TO
DECODE ALL
OF THIS.



FANG...

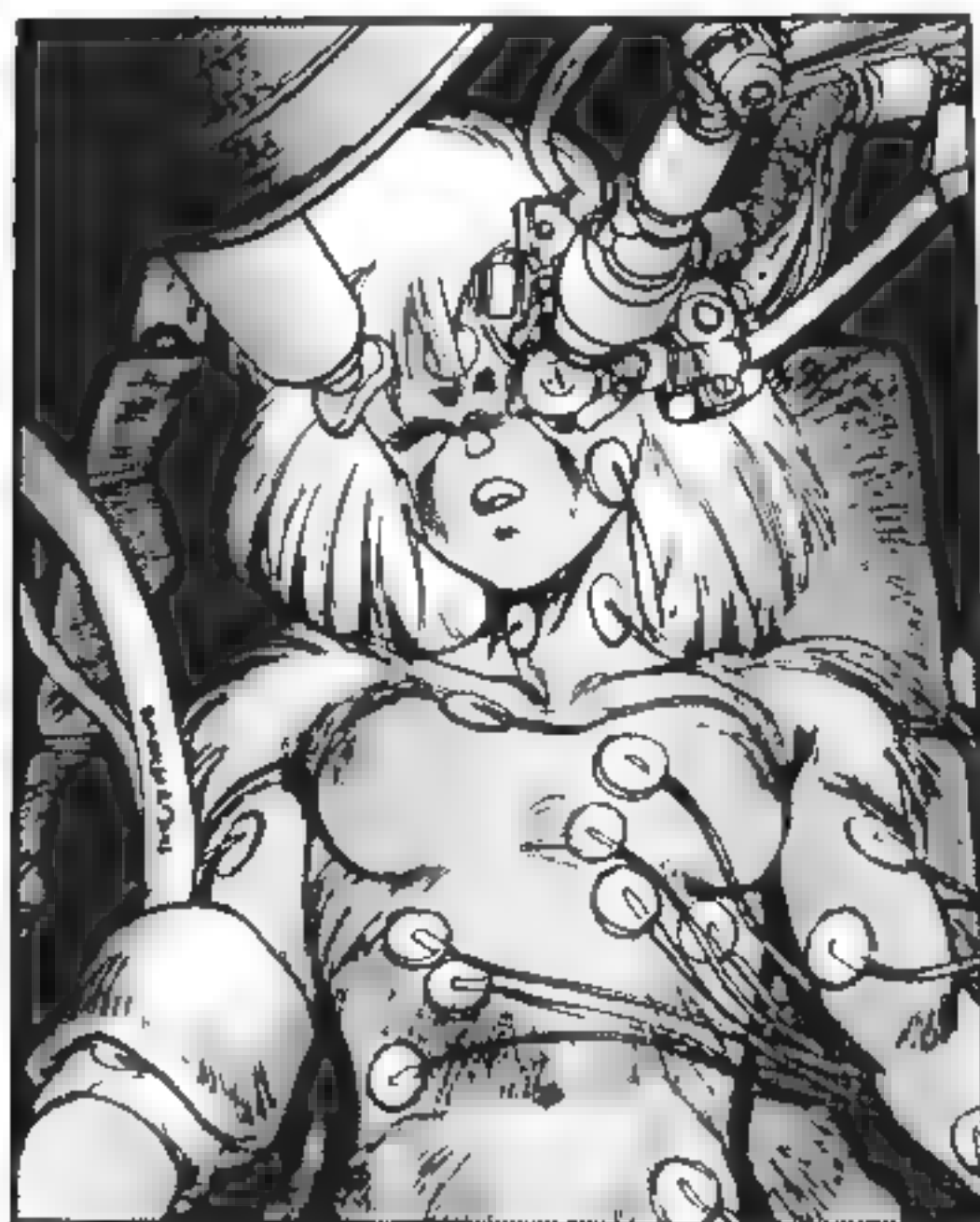
MORE OF
A SUICIDE,
WASN'T IT?
I UNDER-
STAND THEY
PAID A HELL
OF A PILE OF
COMPENSA-
TION...



WE
LOST
ONE OF
OUR
OWN
BE-
CAUSE
OF IT.



SHE WAS
ONLY ABLE
TO PROTECT
THIS DATA
BECAUSE
HER COMBAT
RATING IS SO
HIGH.

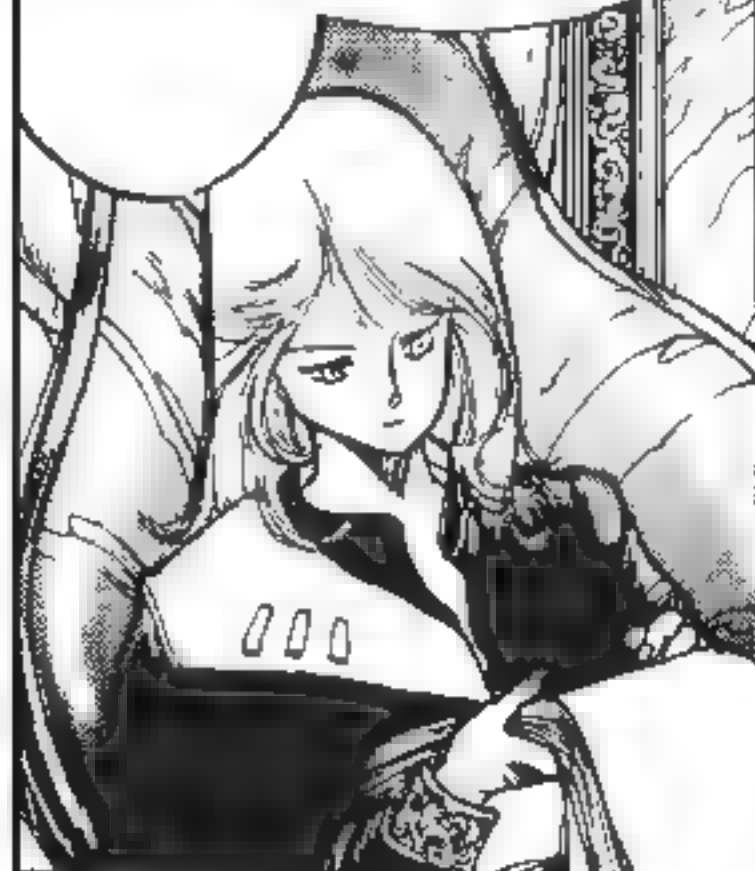


LOOK...
I'M
SORRY.
I DIDN'T
MEAN IT
THAT
WAY...



NO... IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.

ZP-O FUSION BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT SPECIES YIELDS COUNTLESS FAILURES AND TRIAL MODELS FOR EACH SUCCESSFUL UNIT. TO COME UP WITH ONE AS WELL BALANCED AS SHE IS, ASSUMING SHE'S A FAKE, WOULD TAKE A TARTARUS-SIZE INSTALLATION.



PERHAPS FROM POSE DON

WHAT PROOF DO WE HAVE THAT ARTEMIS ISN'T A FAKE?

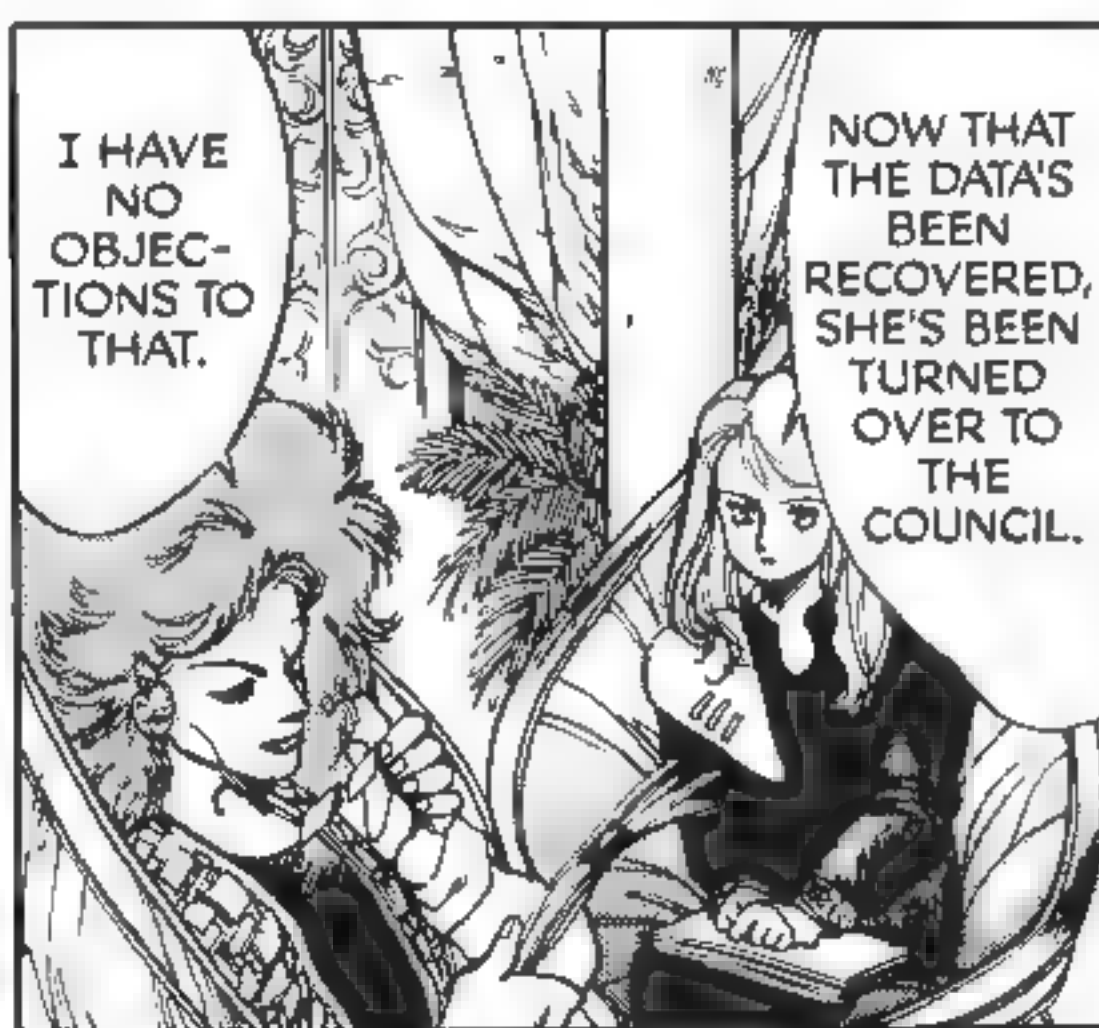


EVEN SO, IT WON'T BE READY BY THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.



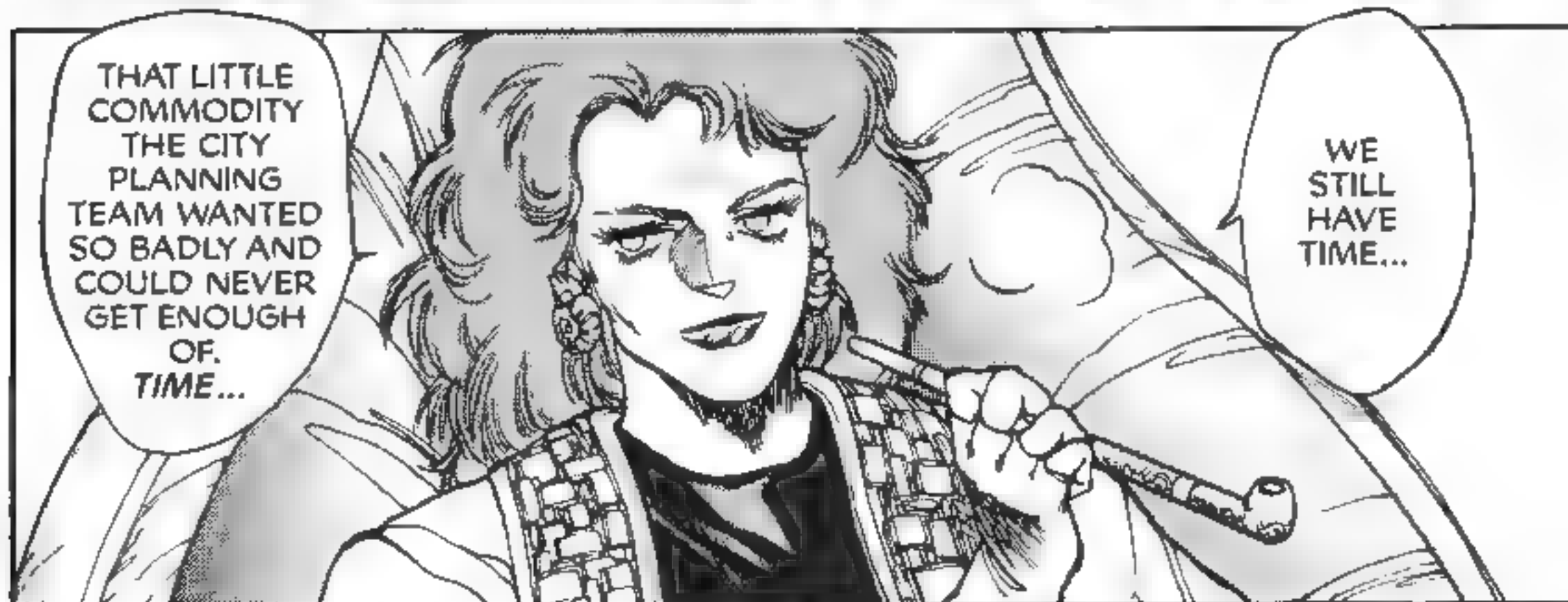
WE'VE ISOLATED ALL OF GAIA'S B-BLOCK CIRCUITS, AND THEY'RE BEING USED EXCLUSIVELY TO DECODE THE DATA.

I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THAT.

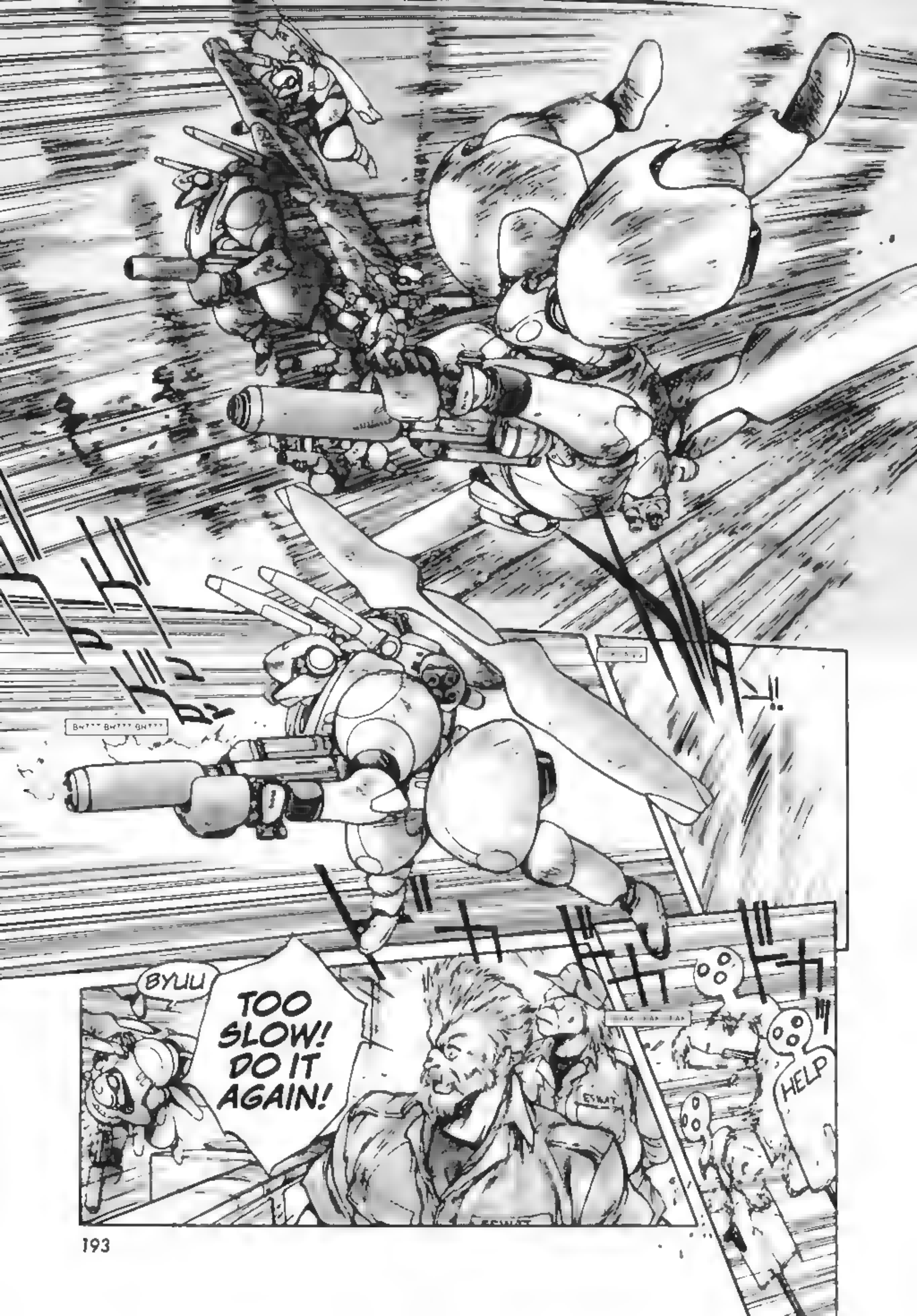


NOW THAT THE DATA'S BEEN RECOVERED, SHE'S BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE COUNCIL.

THAT LITTLE COMMODITY THE CITY PLANNING TEAM WANTED SO BADLY AND COULD NEVER GET ENOUGH OF. TIME...



WE STILL HAVE TIME...



BTWT BTWT BTWT

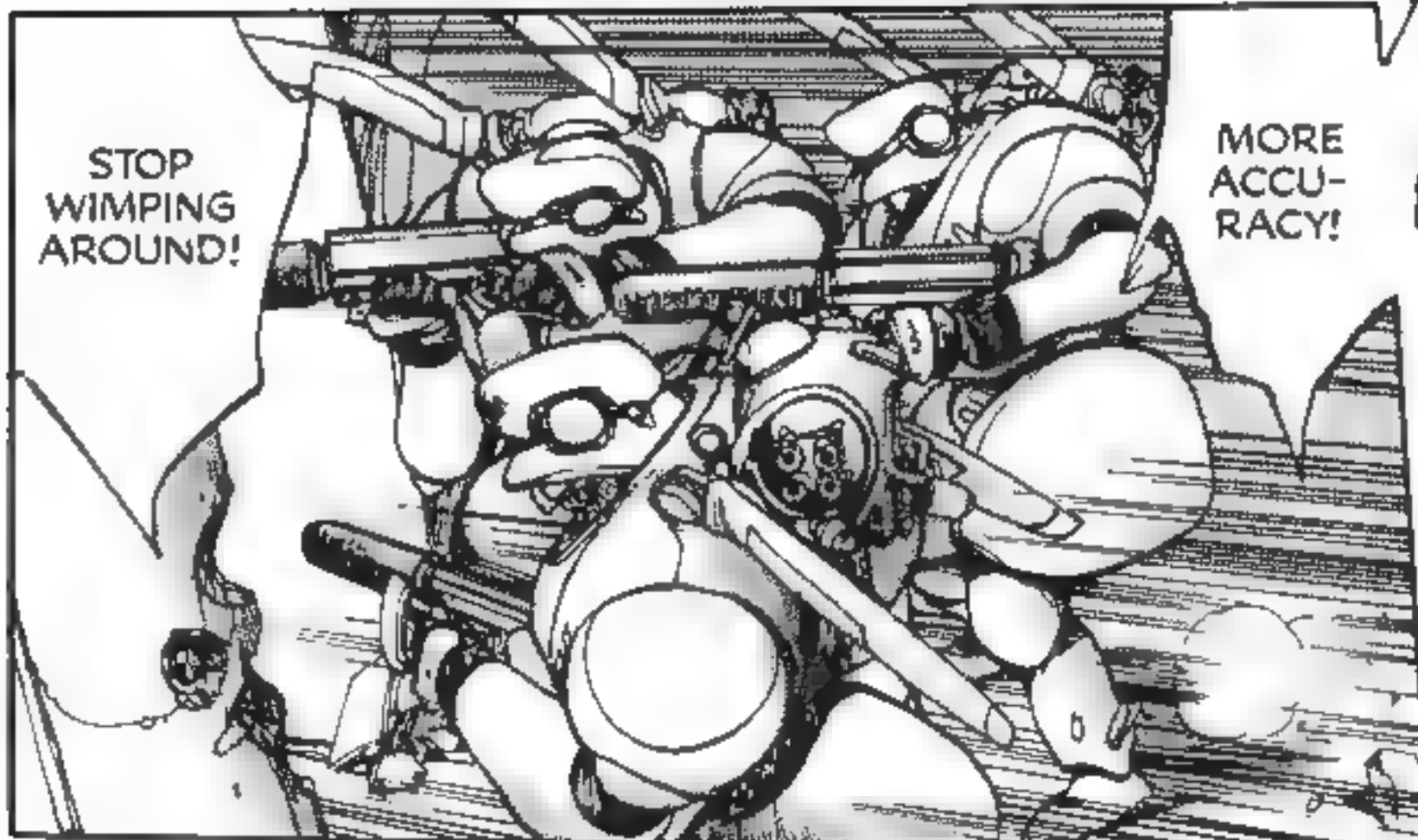
BYUU

TOO
SLOW!
DO IT
AGAIN!

AK FAP FAP

ESWAT

HELP



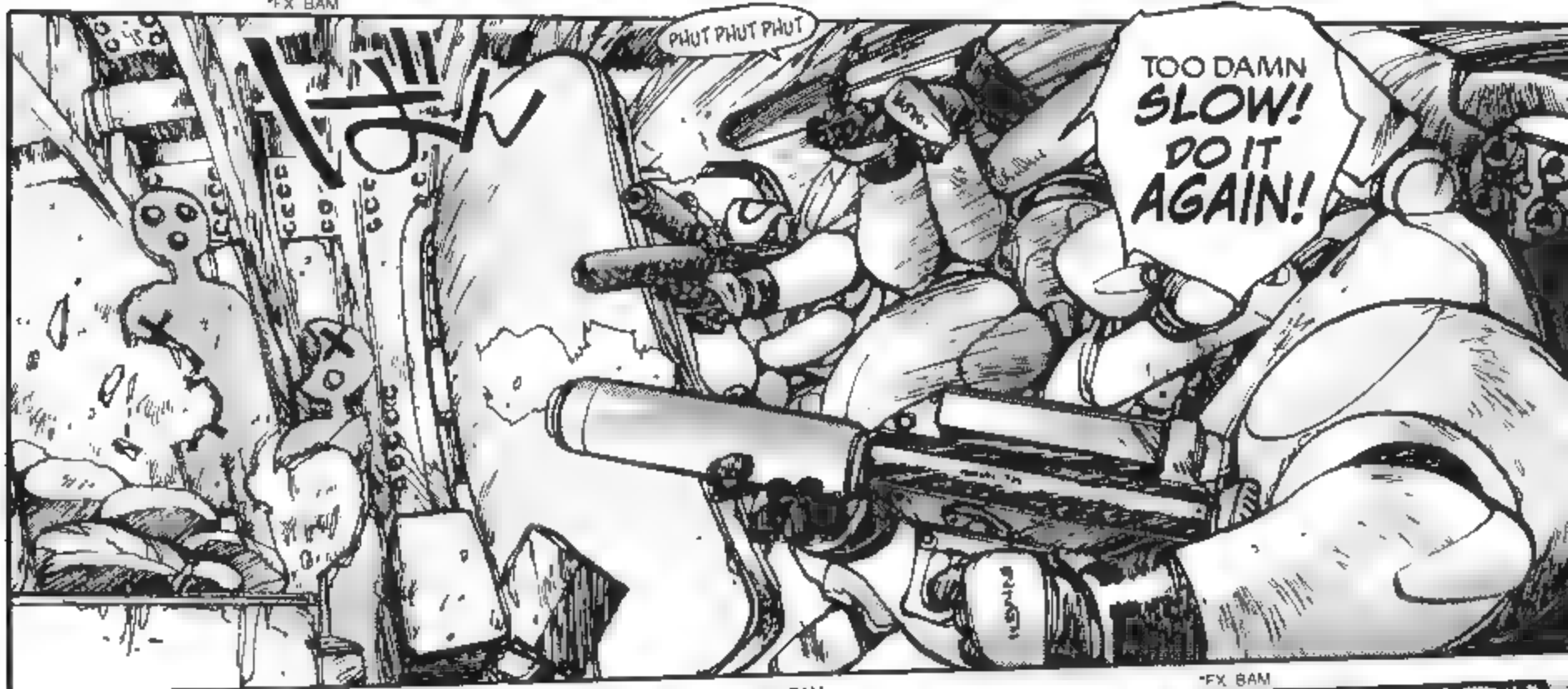
STOP
WIMPING
AROUND!

MORE
ACCU-
RACY!

FASTER!



*FX BAM



PHUT PHUT PHUT

TOO DAMN
SLOW!
DO IT
AGAIN!

*FX BAM

*FX BAM



FROM
THE
TOP!

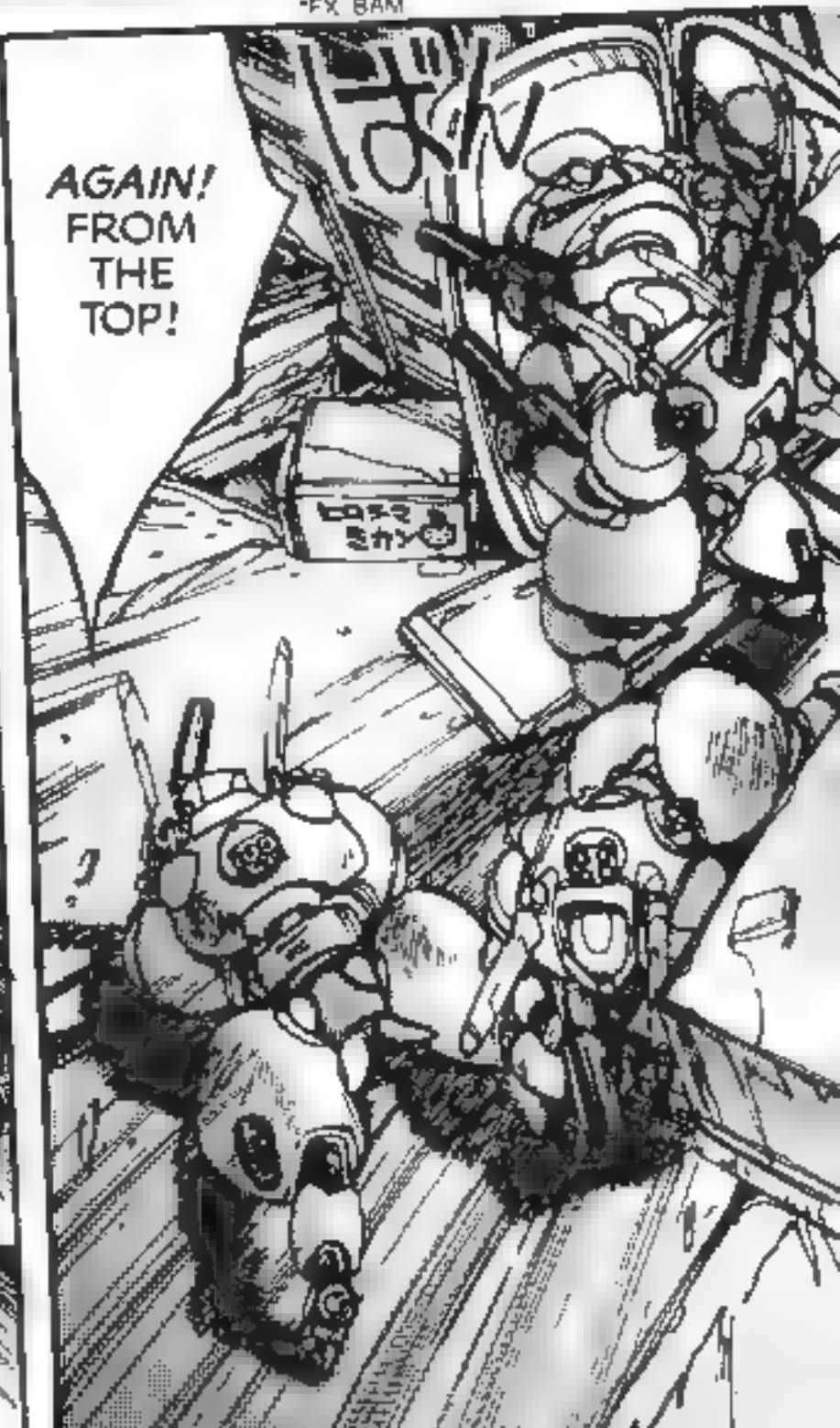
YOU SCUM
STILL DON'T
HAVE IT RIGHT!
IF YOU CAN'T
HACK IT, GET
BACK TO
YOUR
OLD
UNIT!



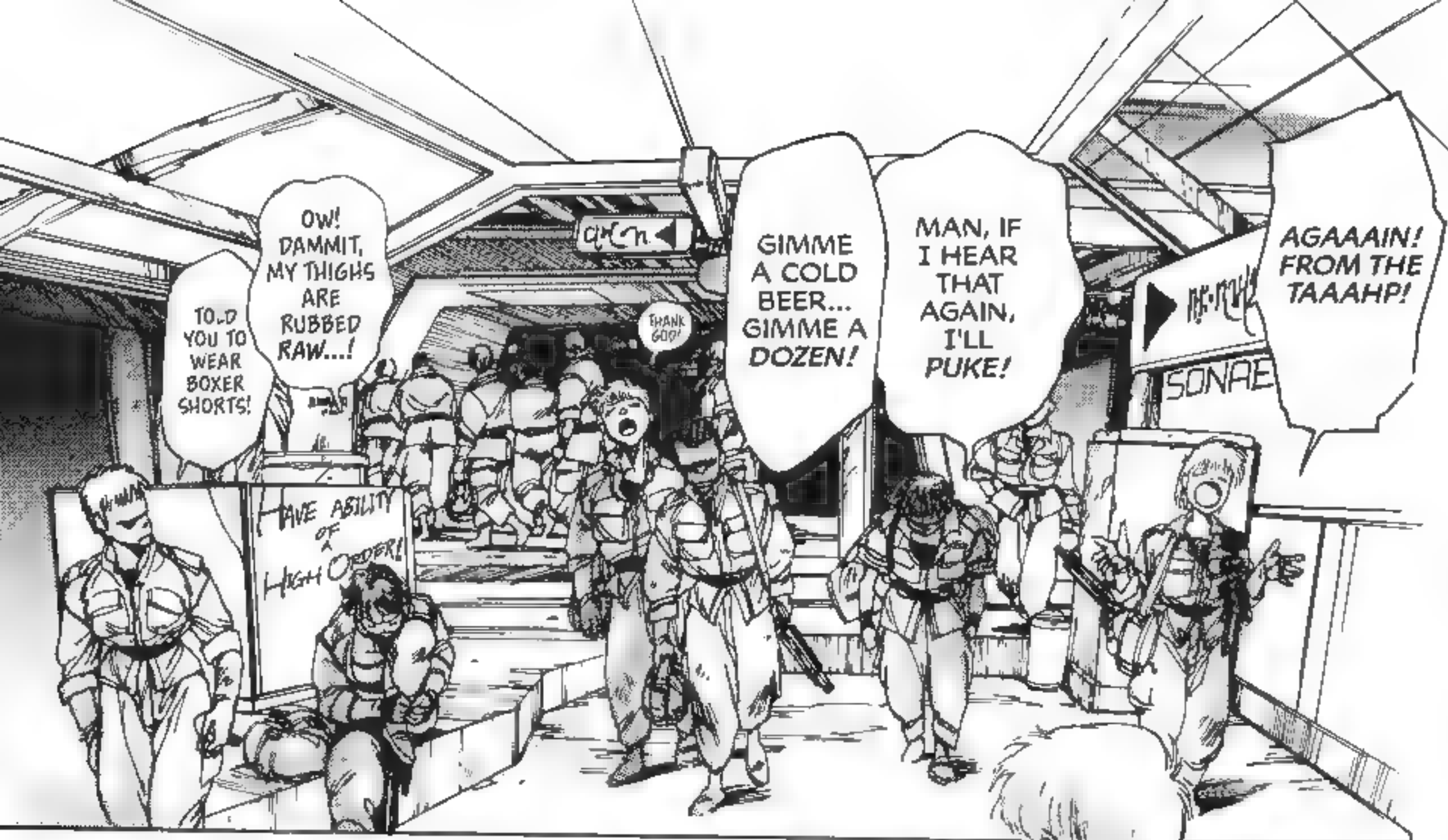
AGAIN!



AGAIN!



AGAIN!
FROM
THE
TOP!





...I'M
JUST
KILLING
TIME.

DID I,
REALLY?
WELL, IT'S NOT
LIKE I HAVE
ANY REAL
ASSIGN-
MENTS ANY-
MORE...

SO YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO BURNED
OUT THE
DAMPERS ON
THE
GUGES-D?

corin-thian
K-113



FARE-
WELL,
DEUNAN.

NO
KIDDING?
WELL,
I'VE
GOT TO
RUN!



OH, I'VE
GOT SOME
OTHER
THINGS
COOKING.

HOW
ABOUT
YOUR
TRAINING,
DORIC?



TAKE ME
TO THE
AIRPORT?



I'LL
SEND A
REPORT
TO BOTH
MINIS-
TRIES*.



DUM
DE
DUM

*The Ministry of the Interior Security Bureau, on the legislative side (including ESWAT, the CHIRON intelligence bureau, and others) and the FBI international crime unit in the Ministry of Justice on the domestic side



Jamah n'ya, the L byan government. Mossad, the Israeli equivalent of the CIA. The Shin Bet is the FBI



THANKS.

YO, THERE,
LITTLE LADY...
YOU'RE
LOOKIN'
GOOD
ENOUGH
TO EAT
ALIVE!

*FX HAHHA



THANKS,
BUT
NO
THANKS!

IDIOT!

LOOK, I'VE GOT A
LITTLE SOMETHING
THAT REALLY
TOUCHES OFF A
CYBORG. SYSTEM-
ATICALLY BENIGN
AND DIRT CHEAP!
JUST \$150 FOR
FIVE CC'S...

FX BLEAHH



Fool with
yourself !!

YOU'LL
WANT IT
LATER...!
WAIT! A
BARGAIN AT
\$135!

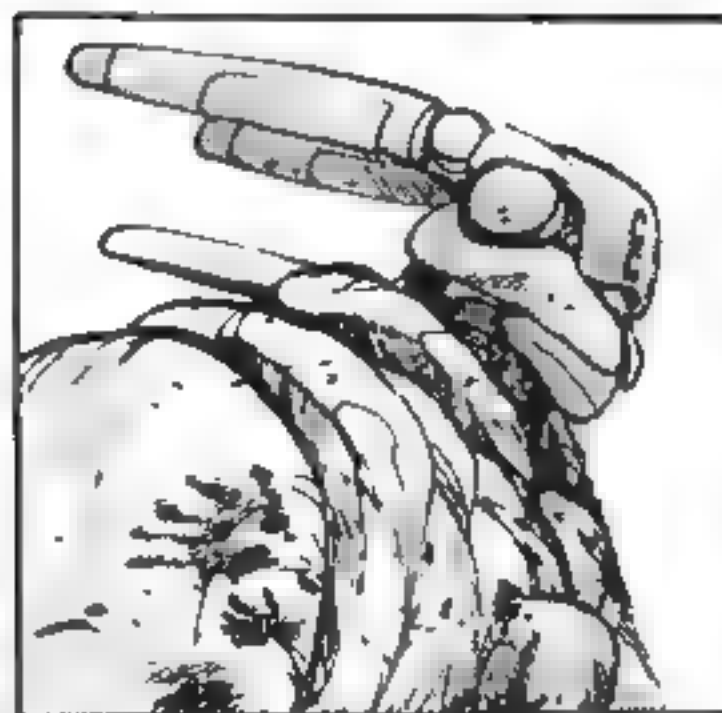
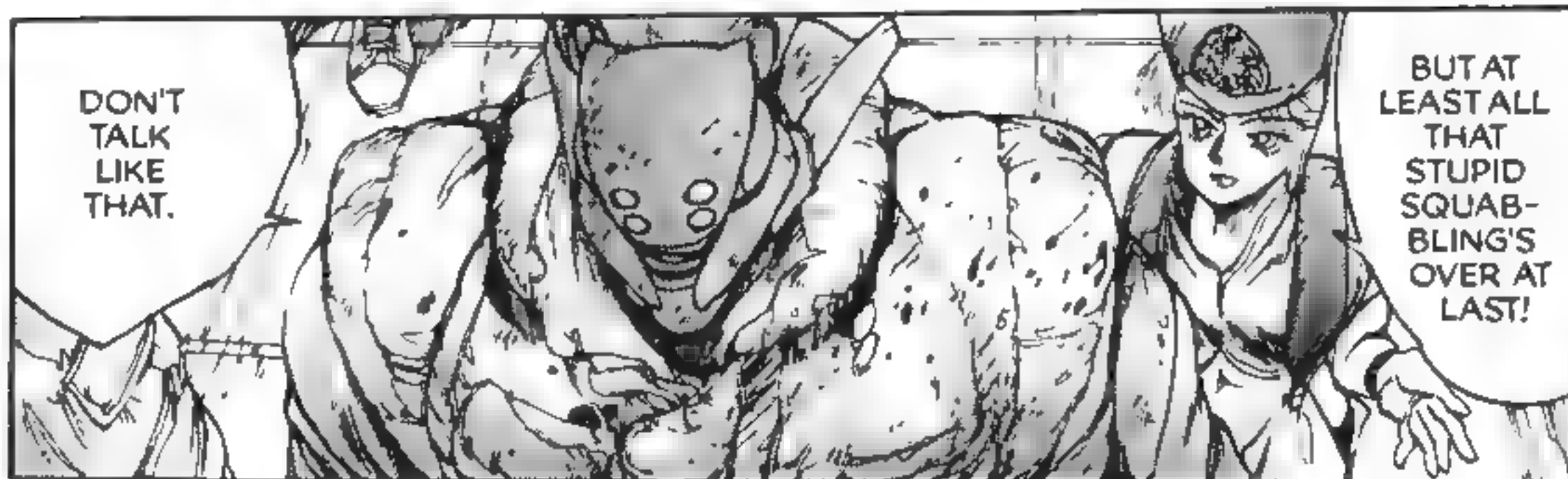
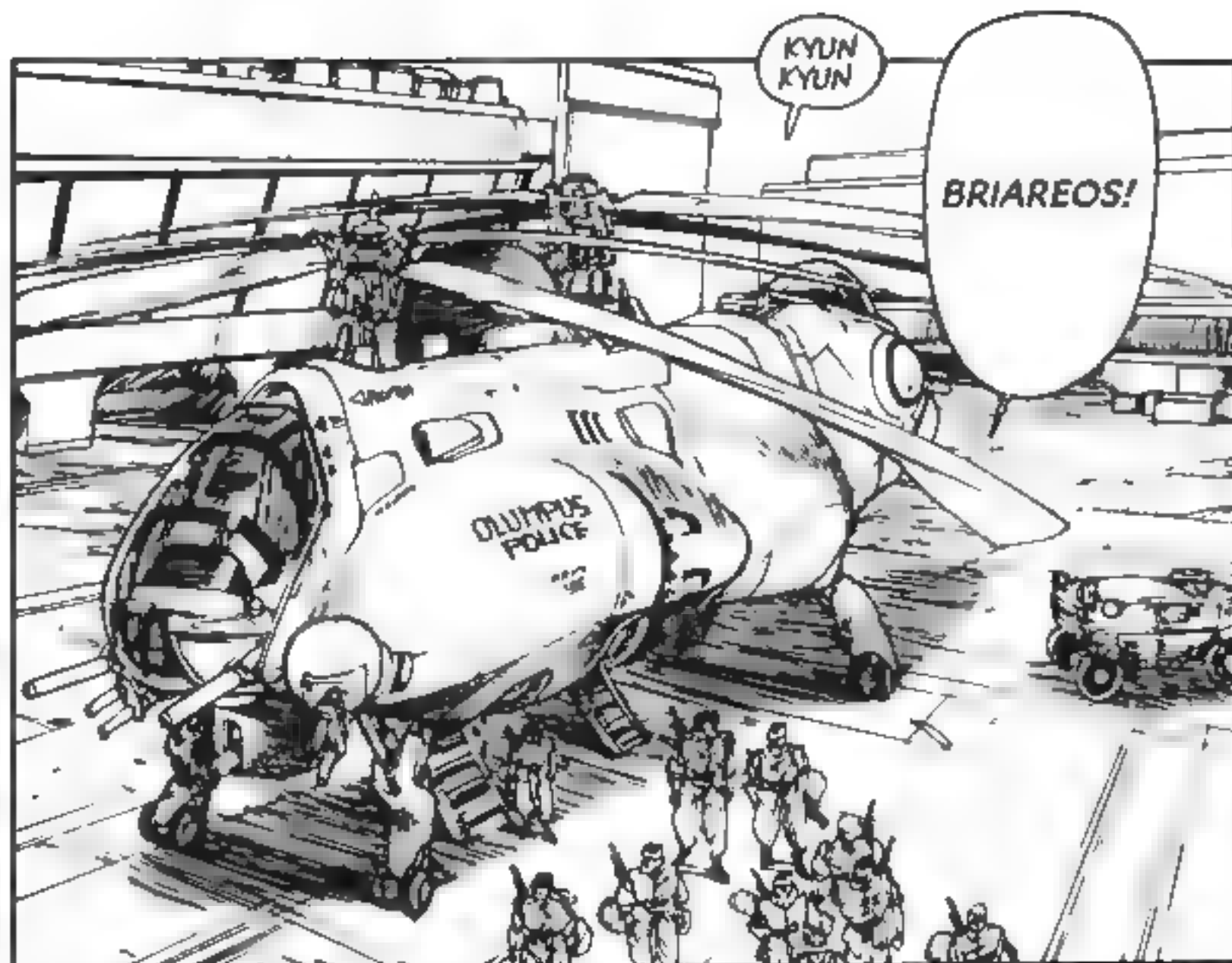
*VWHP VWHP VWHP

I DUNNO
PRETTY FUNNY, IF
YOU ASK ME!

WHAT A BITCH!

*FSHMMM

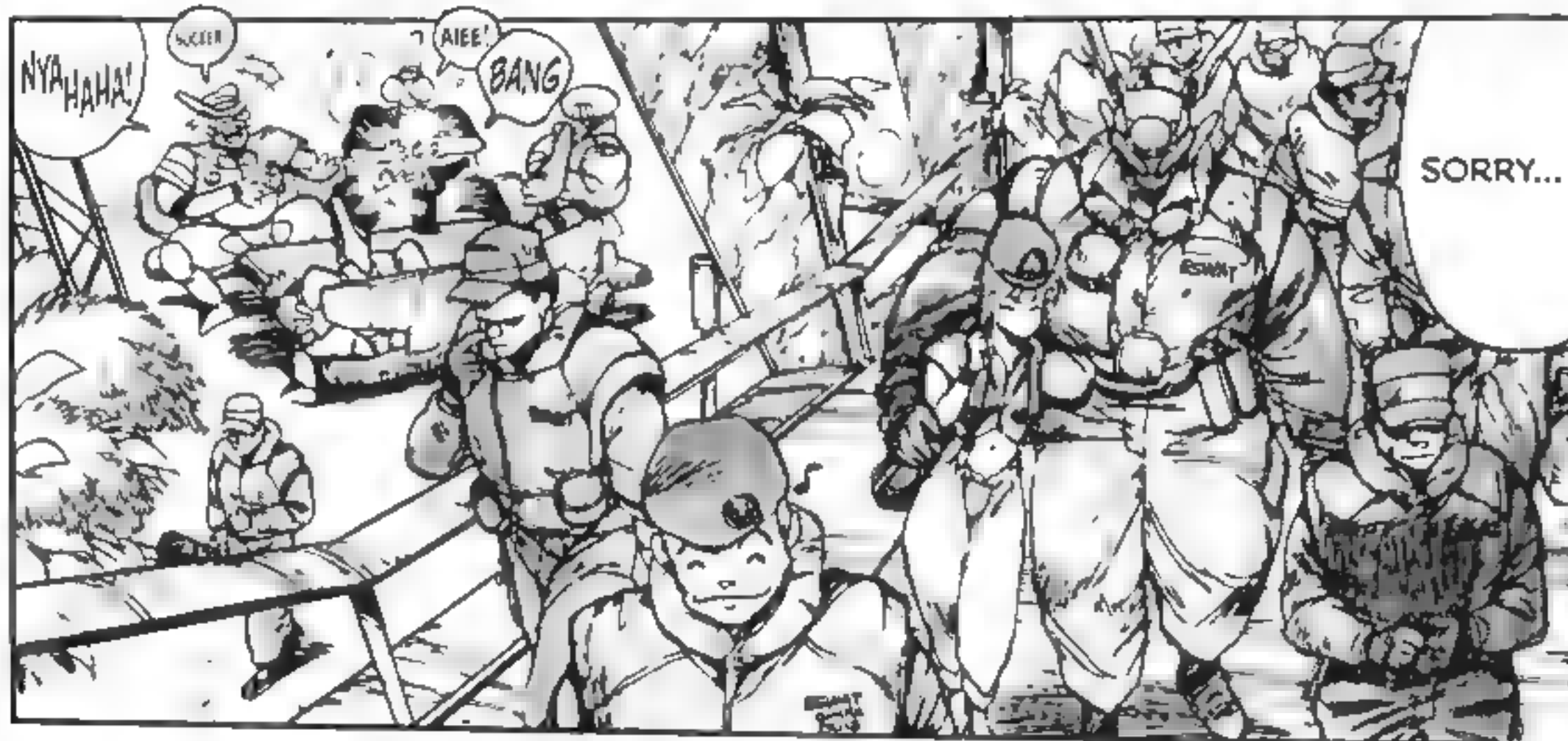
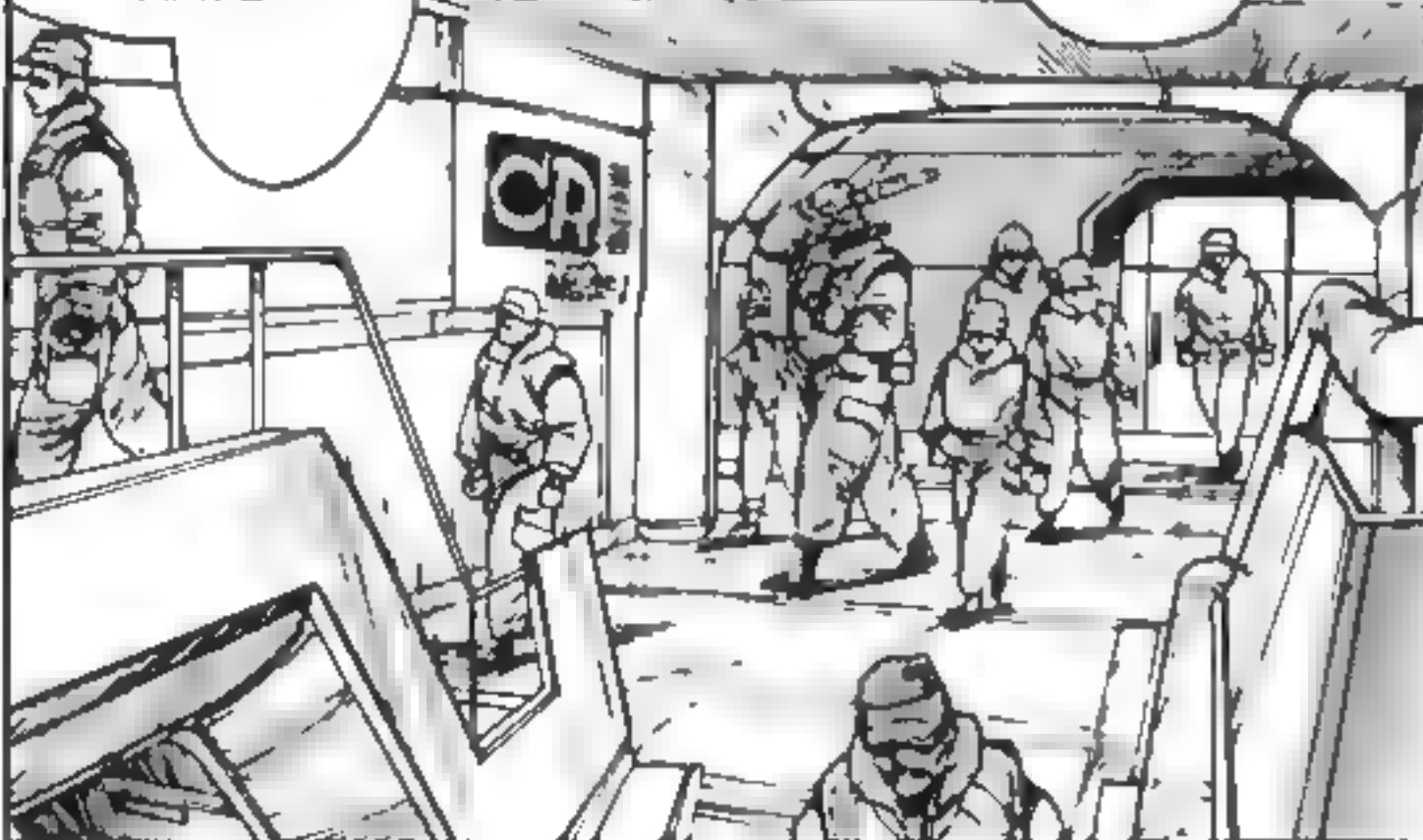




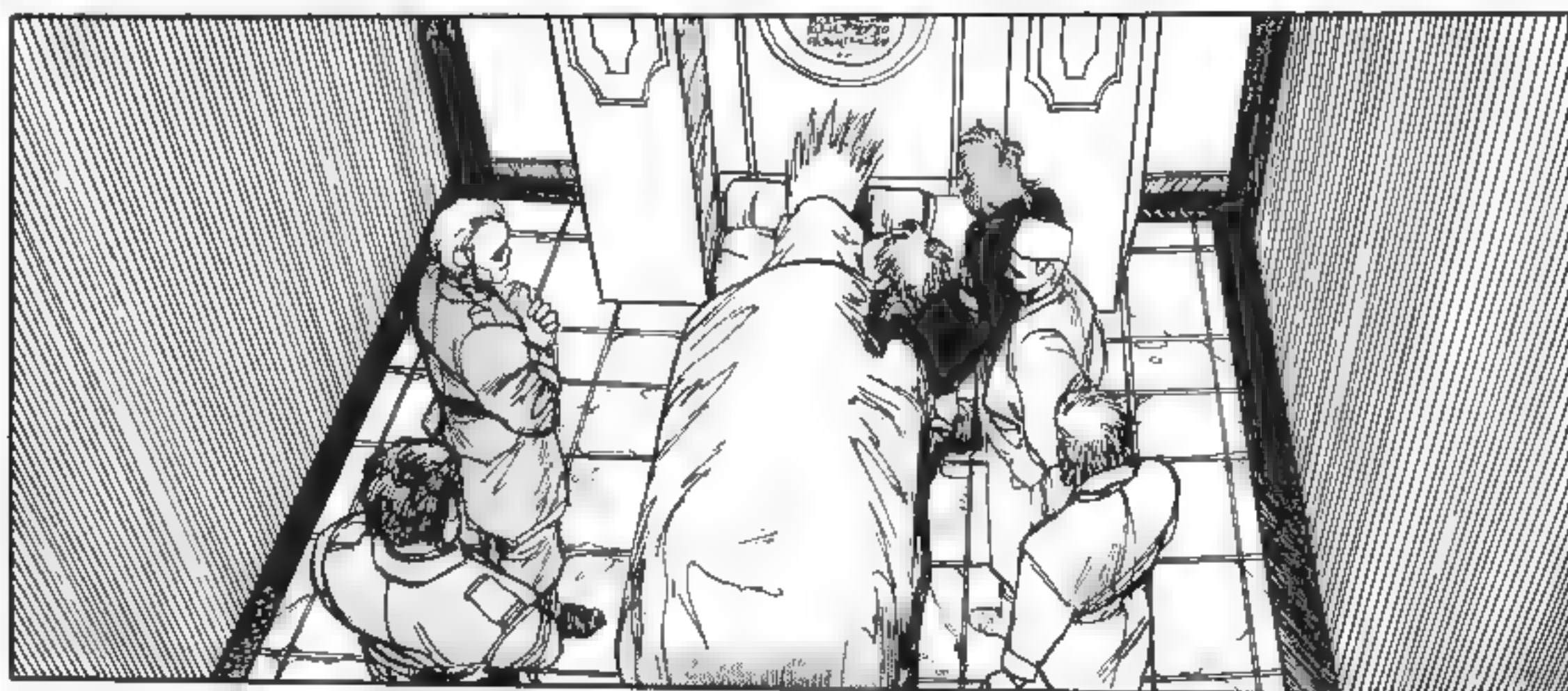


THE BARUKI STICK
THEIR OAR IN,
POSEIDON SELLS
WEAPONS TO
WHOEVER PAYS...
IF THEY'D BROUGHT
IN NEUTRAL
NEGOTIATORS
SOONER,
MAYBE IT
WOULDN'T
HAVE--

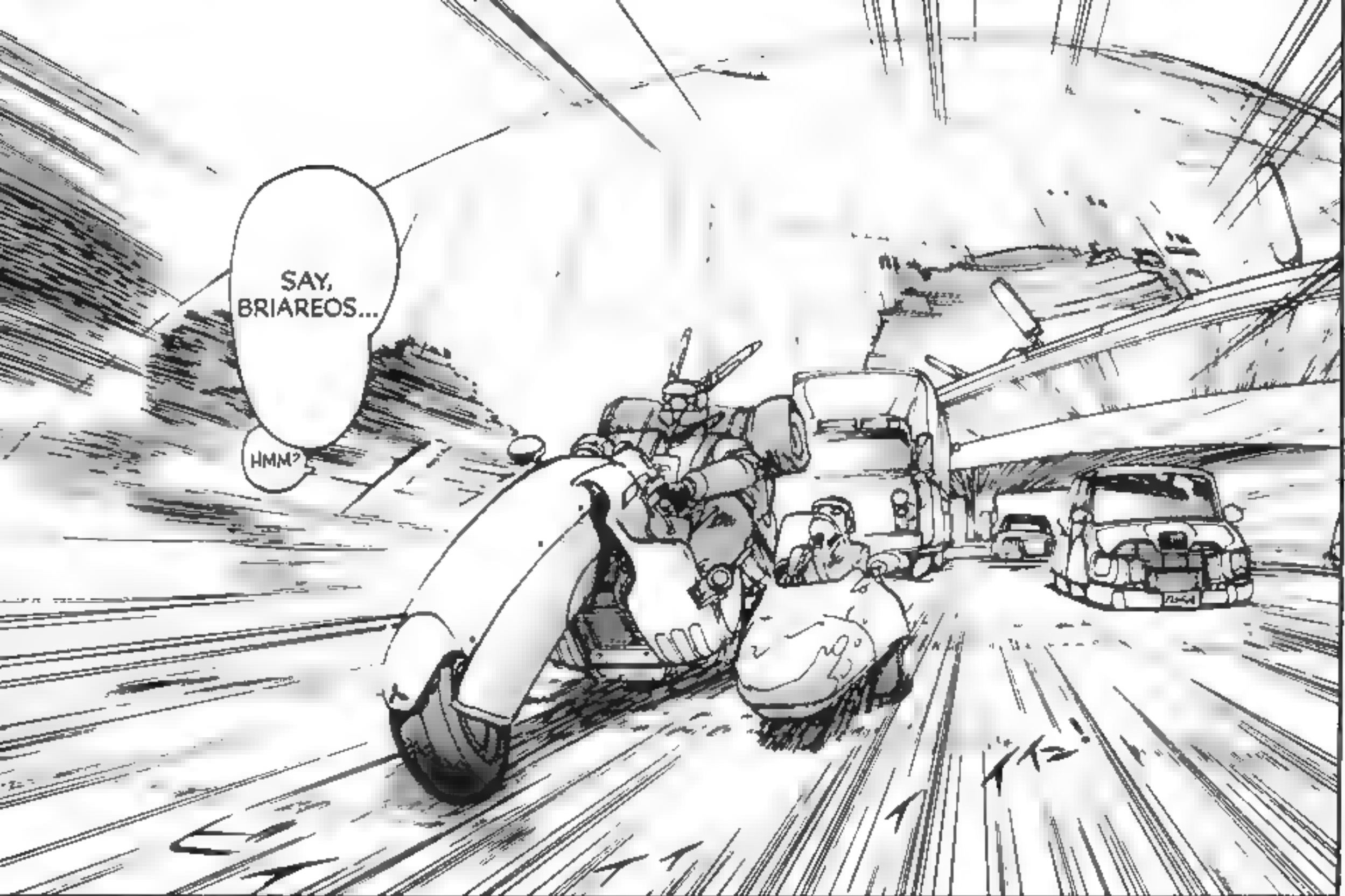
I COULDN'T CARE
LESS ABOUT THE
SIKH AUTONOMOUS
REPUBLIC OR THEIR
DAMN WARS OF
"INDEPENDENCE"...
BUT TO STAMP
THE DIGNITY OUT
OF HARMLESS
CIVILIANS LIKE
THAT...



I'M JUST A
LITTLE TIRED,
THAT'S ALL.
WE HAVEN'T
HAD A BREAK
IN AGES.

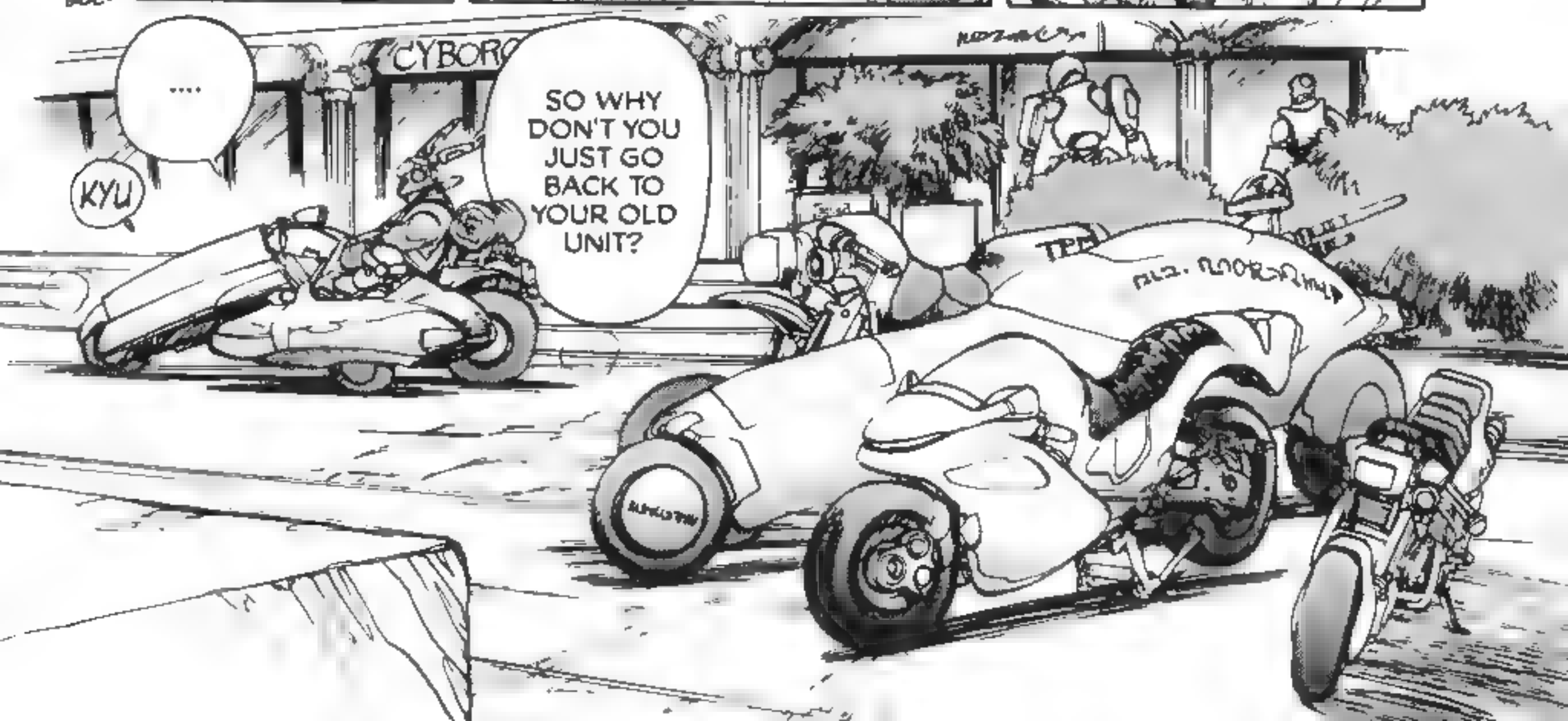






*FX VEEREN

*FX VEERN





..BUT
SOMETIMES
I DO THINK
IT WOULD
BE BETTER
ALL
AROUND.

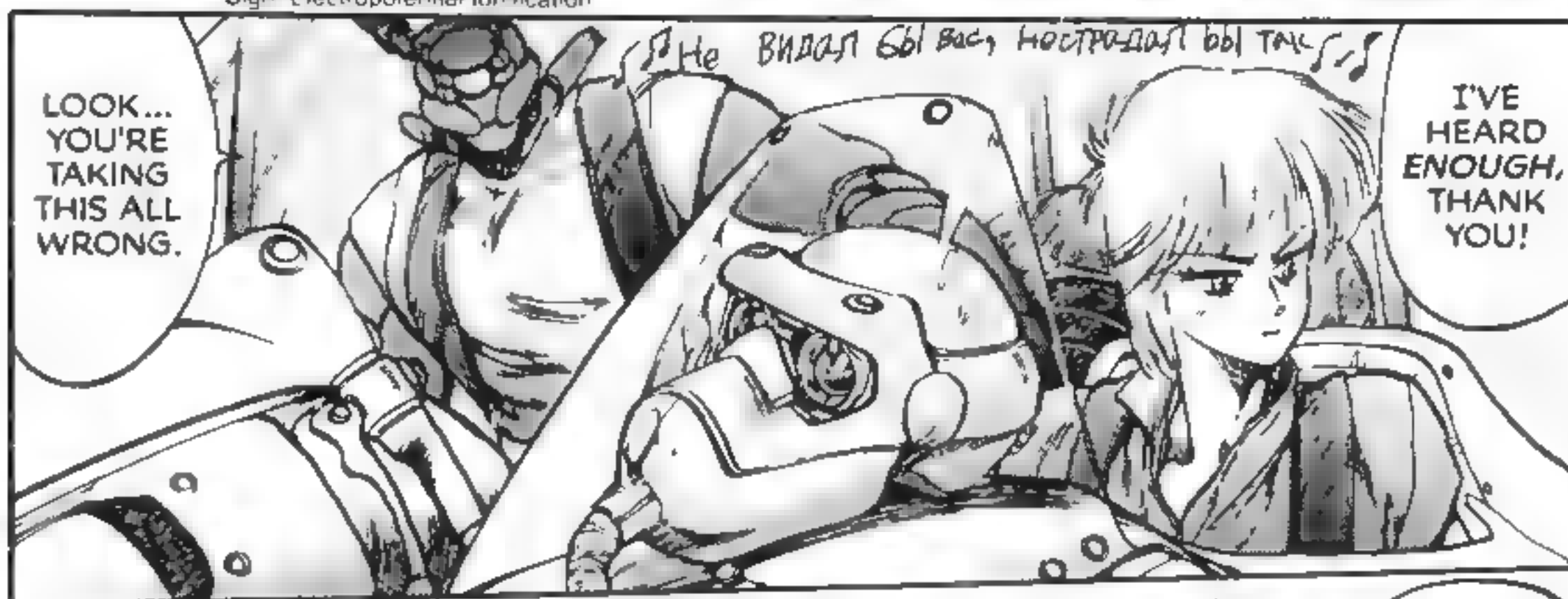
NOTHING
OF THE
SORT...



DO YOU
EXPECT ME
TO JUST SIT
AT HOME
LIKE A
LUMP AND
WORRY
ABOUT
YOU?!

PSHT

Sign: Electropotential Ionification



LOOK...
YOU'RE
TAKING
THIS ALL
WRONG.

I'VE
HEARD
ENOUGH,
THANK
YOU!

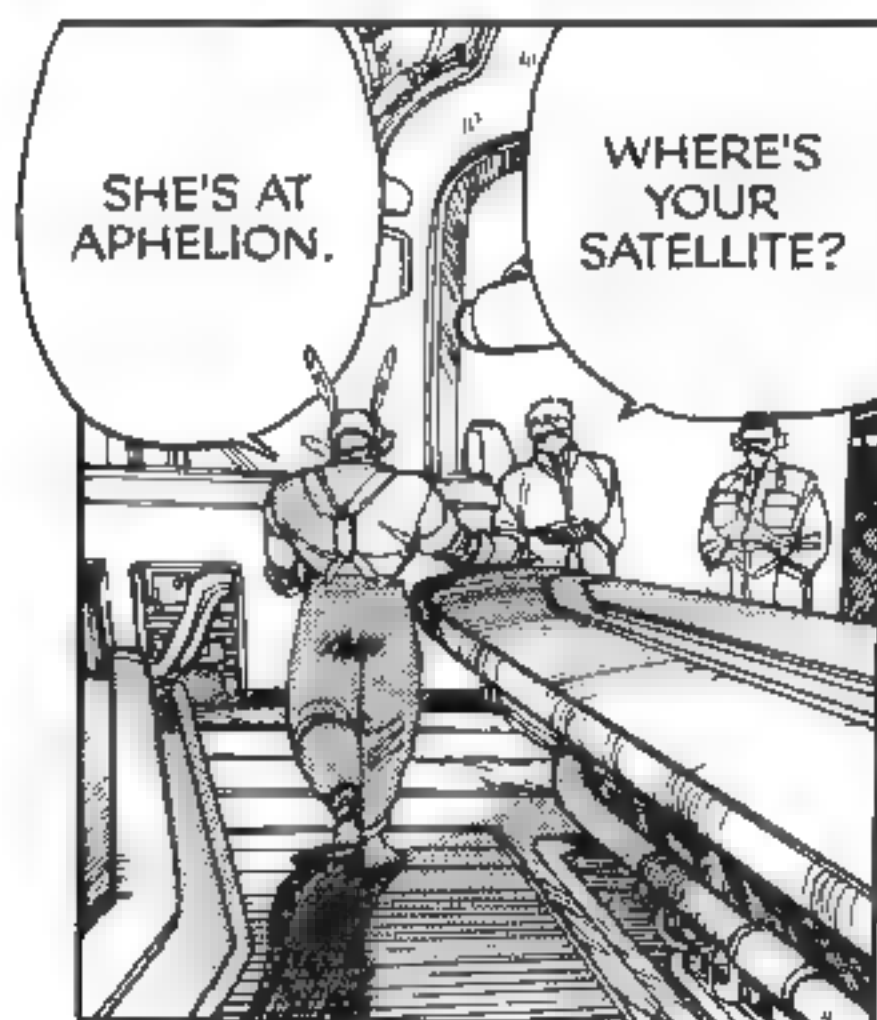
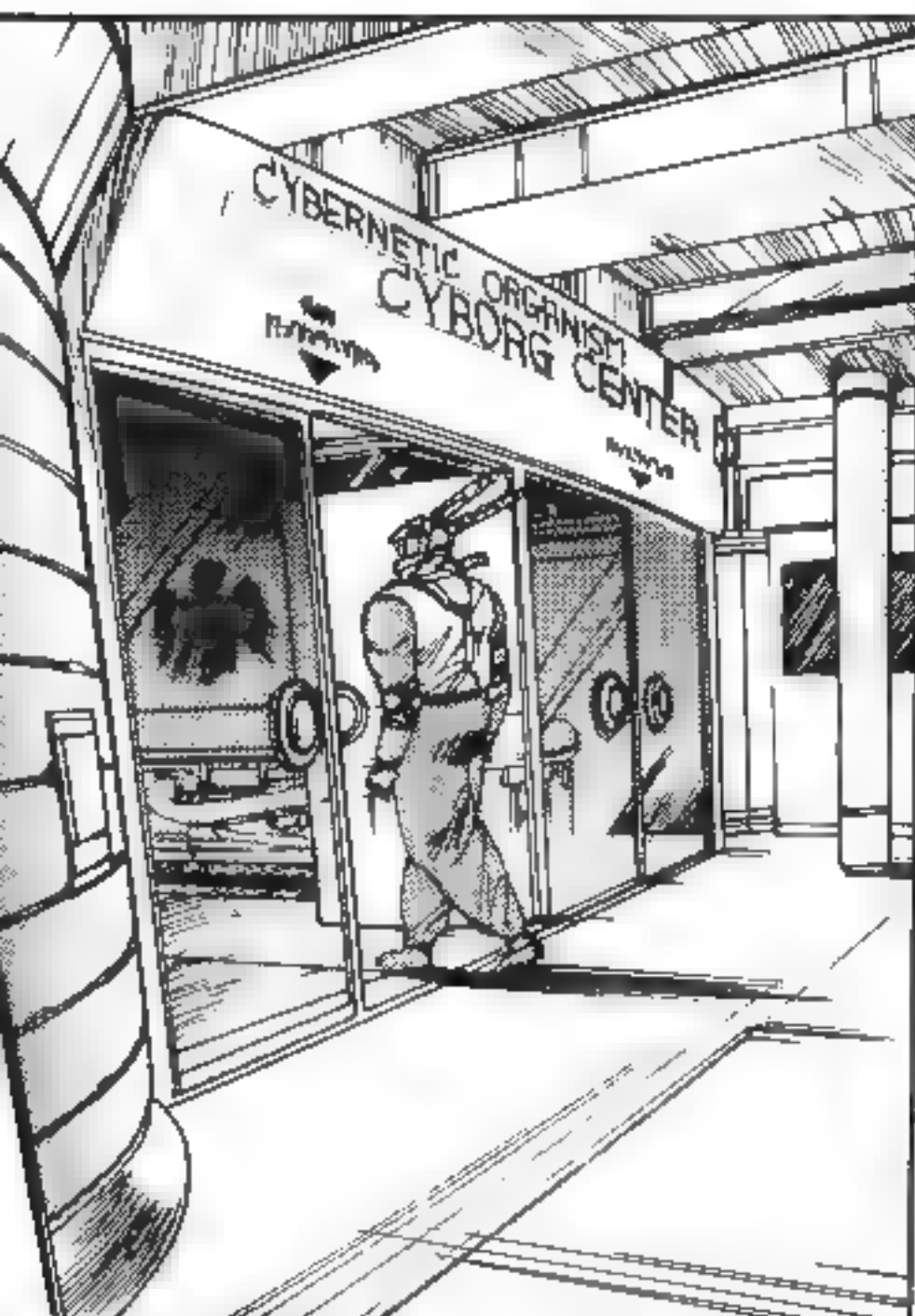


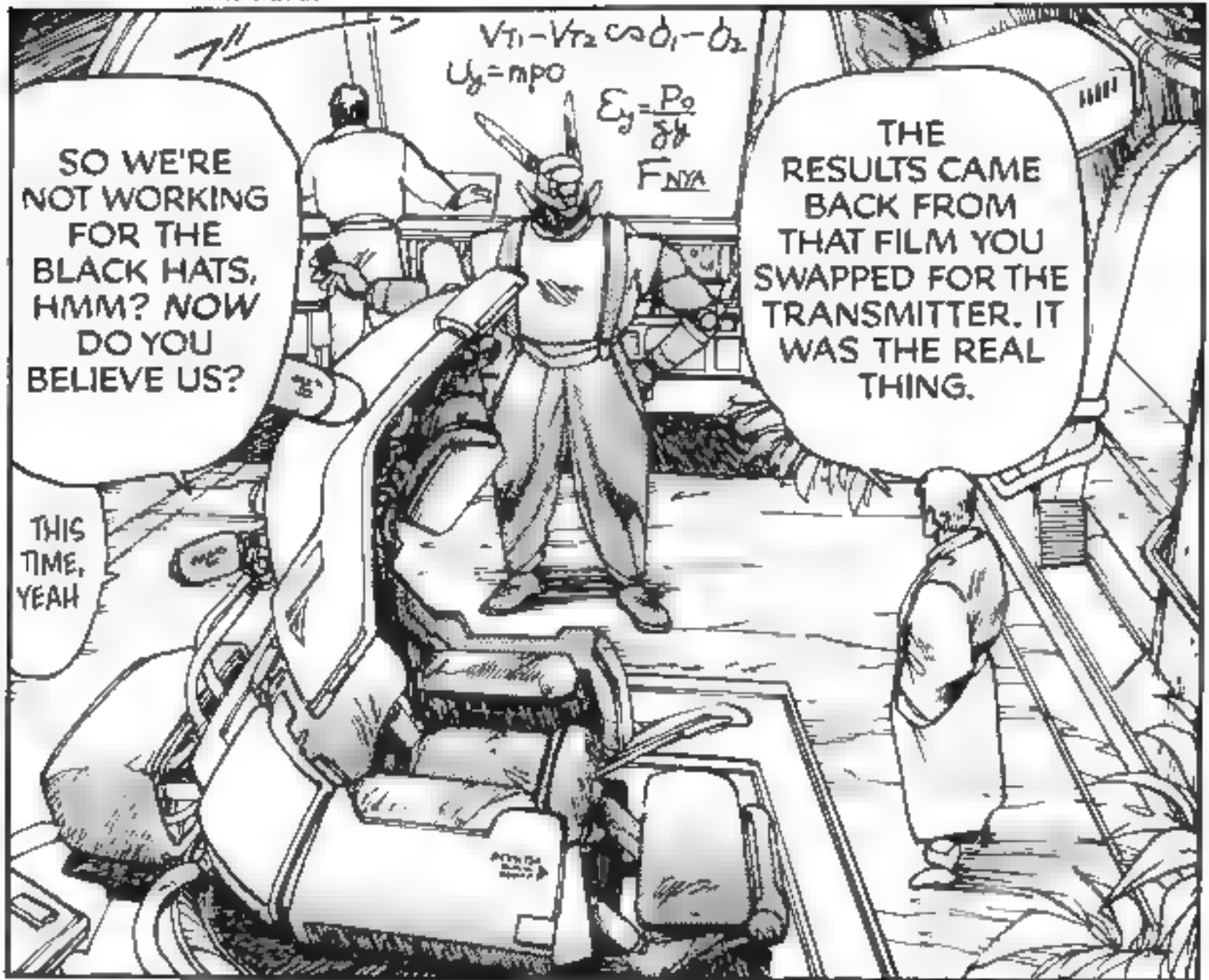
WHERE IS
THE OLD
FIGHTING
MACHINE
SLEEPING...?

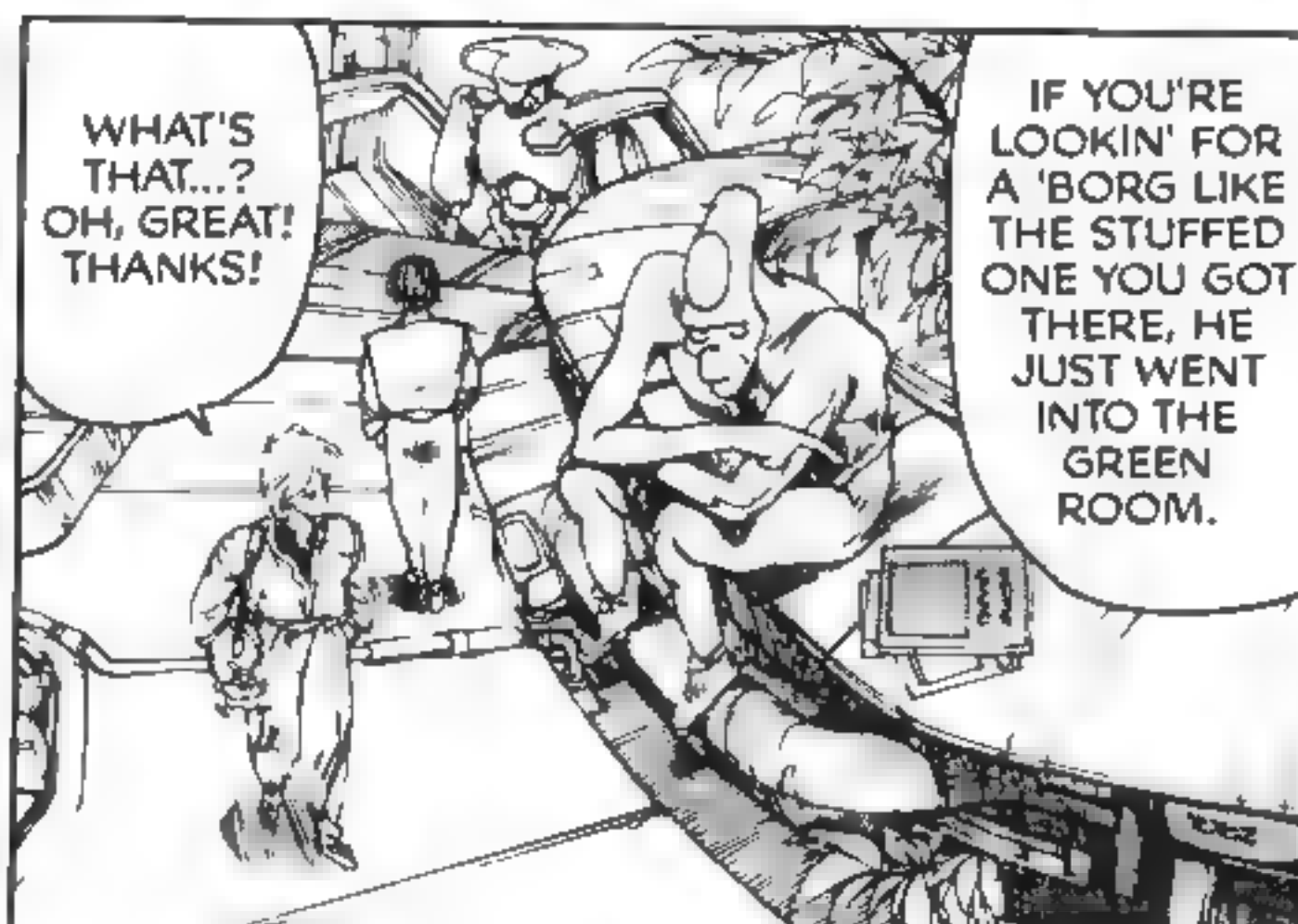
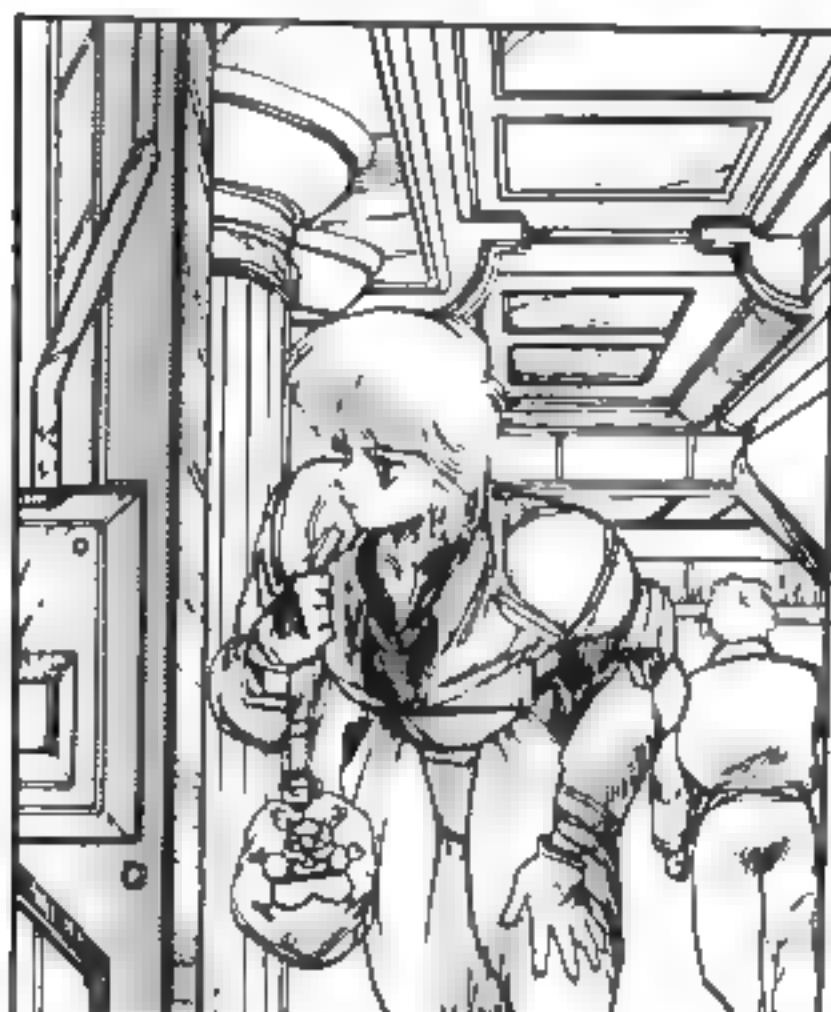
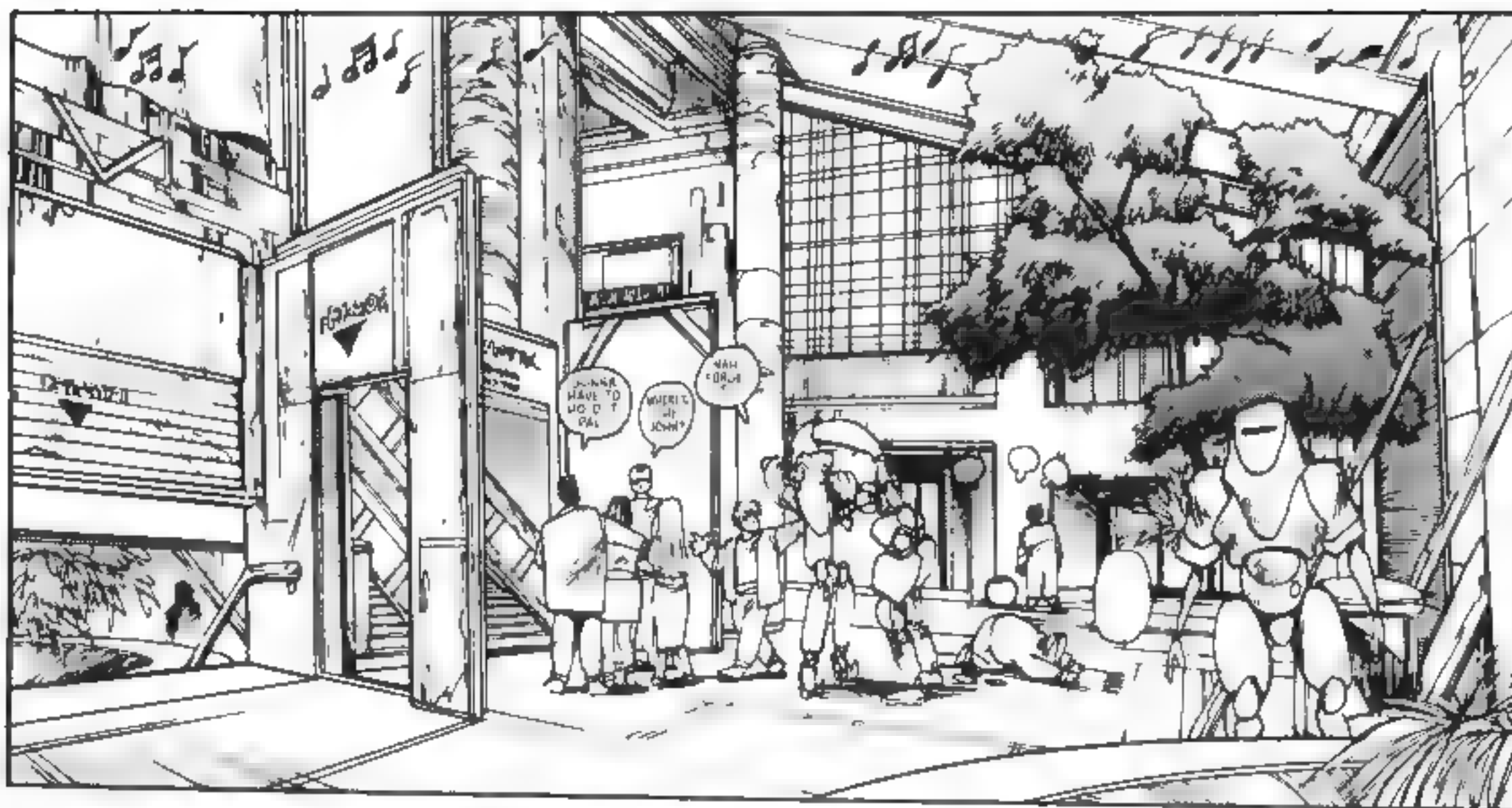


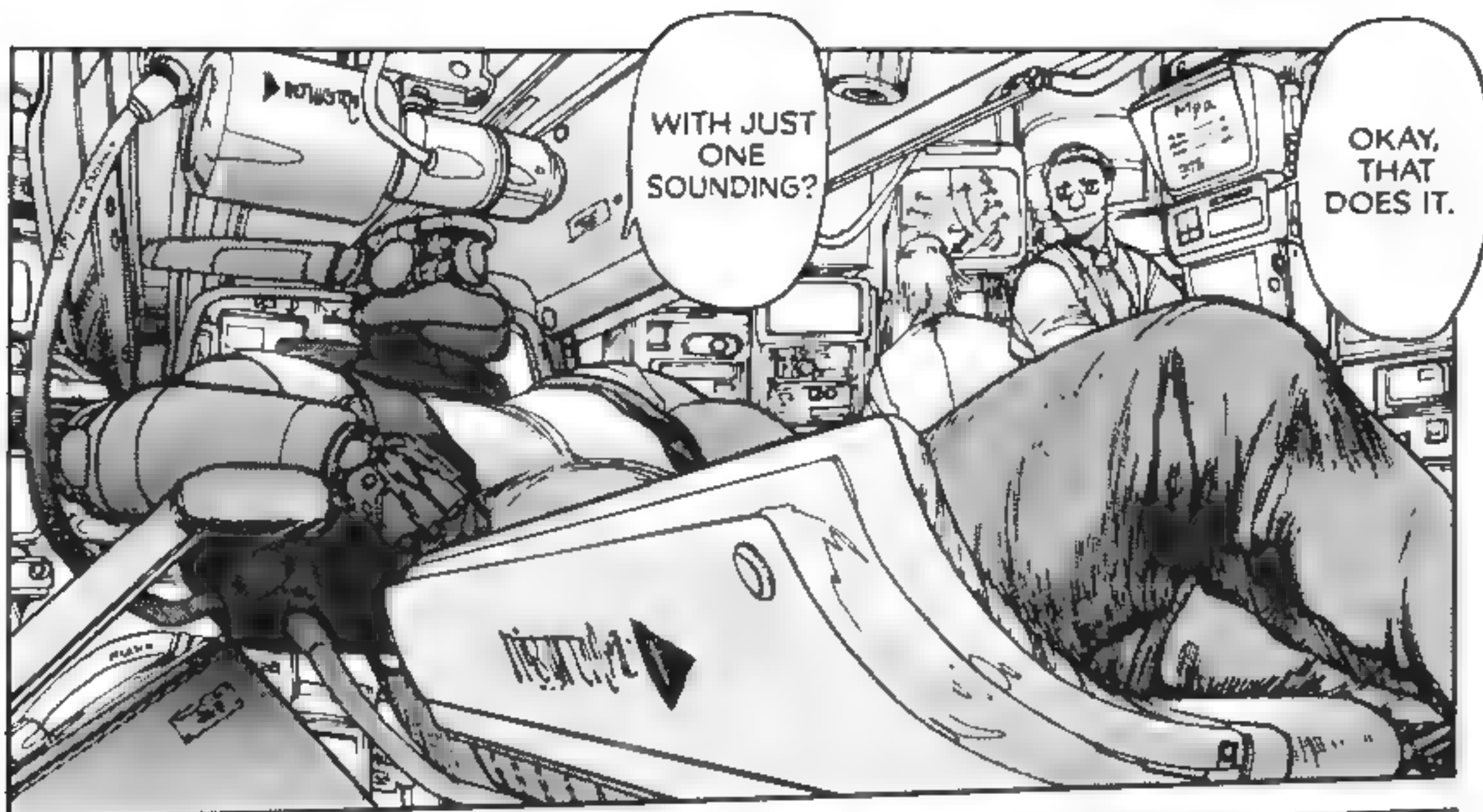
I'M NOT
GOING TO
ORDER YOU
TO TRUST
THEM. BUT
REMEMBER
FIRST YOU
HAVE TO
BE TRUST-
WORTHY.

GISH!









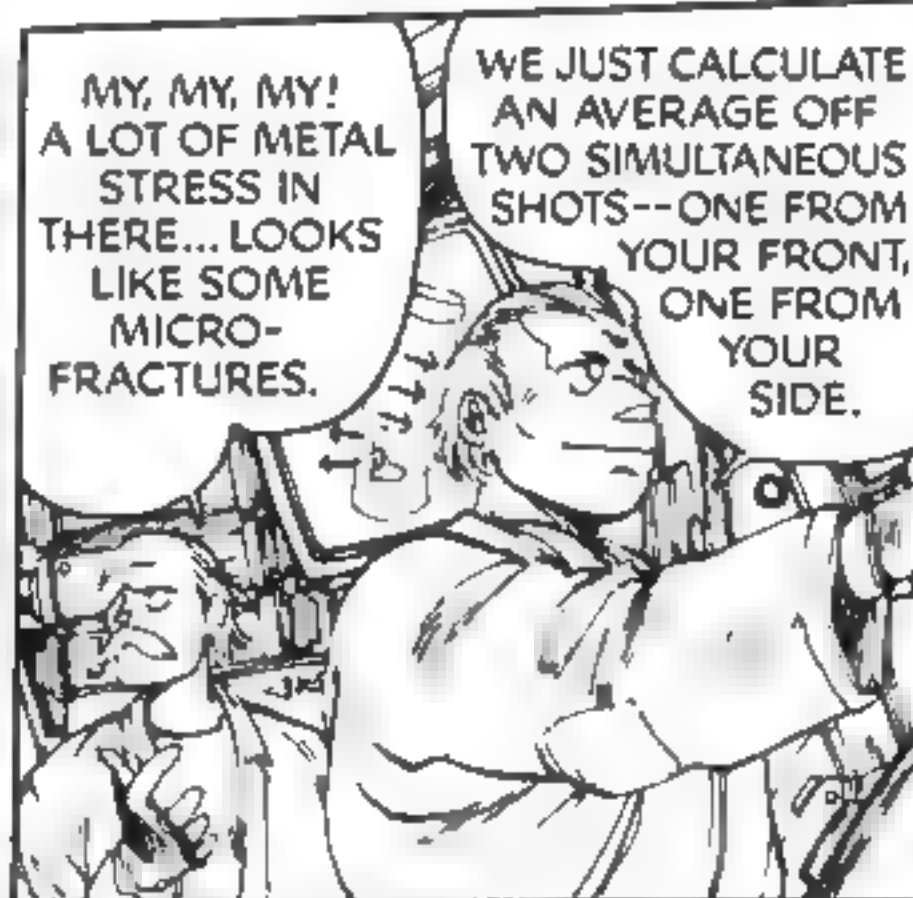
WITH JUST ONE SOUNDING?

OKAY, THAT DOES IT.



YOU CAN REALLY GET THAT MUCH DETAIL OFF THE ULTRA-SOUND?

BACK IN THE OLD DAYS, THEY HAD TO CHECK ALL MY INTERNAL STRESS GAUGES.



MY, MY, MY! A LOT OF METAL STRESS IN THERE... LOOKS LIKE SOME MICRO-FRACTURES.

WE JUST CALCULATE AN AVERAGE OFF TWO SIMULTANEOUS SHOTS--ONE FROM YOUR FRONT, ONE FROM YOUR SIDE.

A grid is shot off the key body parts and compared against the original master. Stress shows as a moiré pattern.

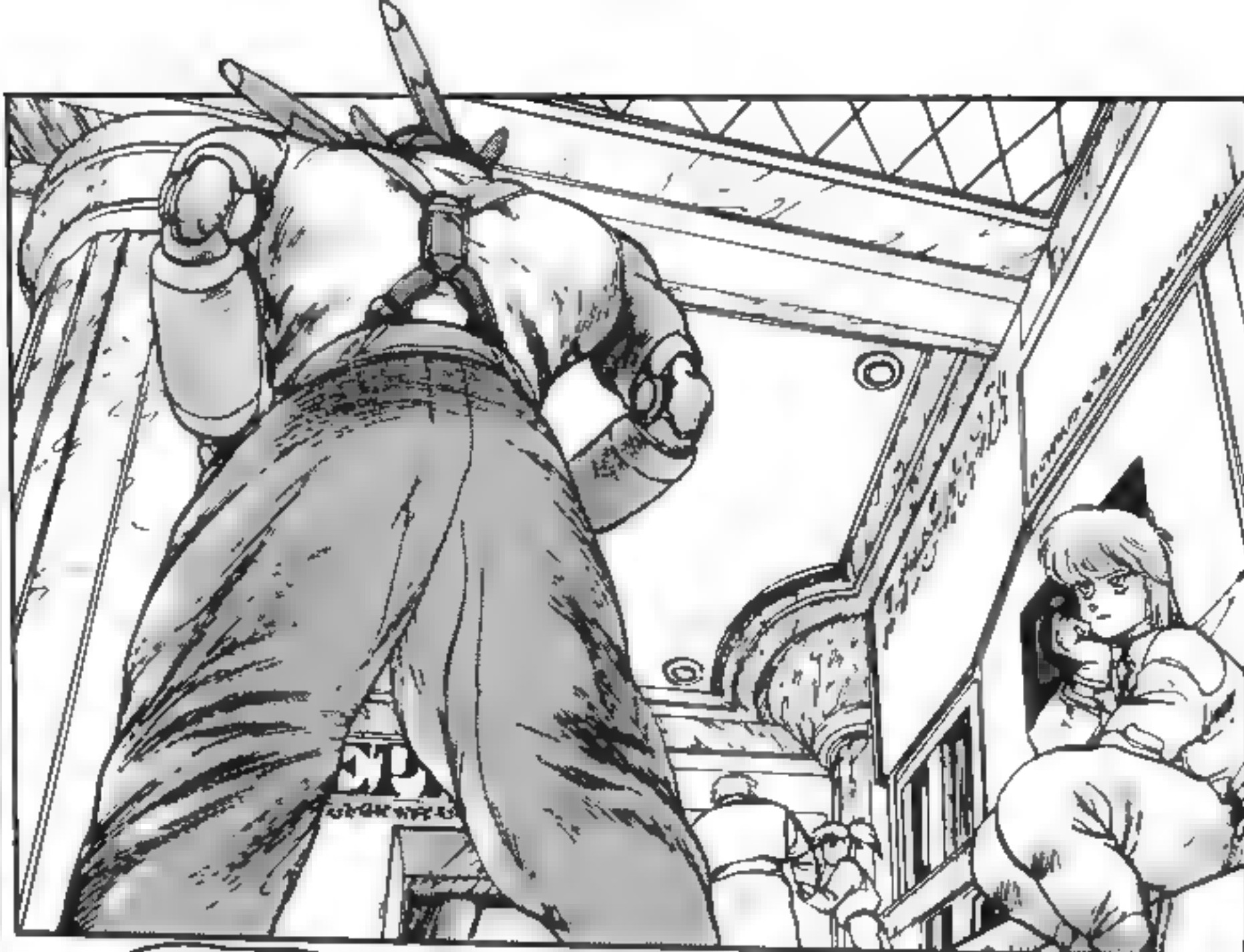


HAVING ALL THOSE OFFICIAL GADGETS INSIDE GIVES ME CRAMPS... STILL, GUESS I CAN'T JUST HAVE YOU YANK THEM.

ALAS...

WE'LL CALL YOU WHEN THE FINAL RESULTS COME IN. I'LL JUST HAVE THE COST DEDUCTED FROM YOUR ACCOUNT.





REALLY?!

ENOUGH, ENOUGH ALREADY. IT'S FASTER FOR ME JUST TO ADAPT TO YOUR NEW, ERRATIC BEHAVIOR PATTERNS.

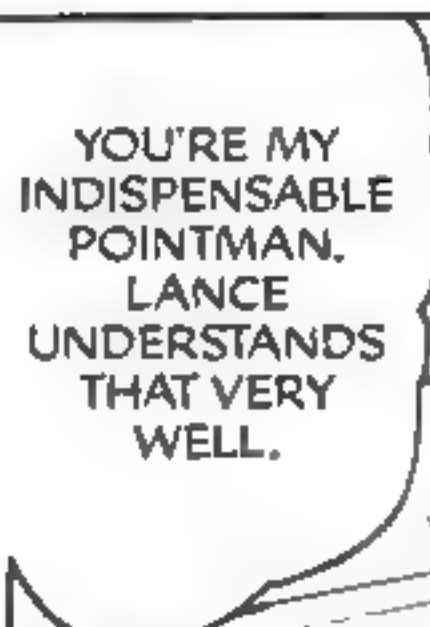


I DON'T WANT TO QUIT THIS WORK. AND I DON'T WANT TO BE SENT BACK TO MY OLD UNIT.



HE SAYS YOU'LL BE OUT OF TRAINING BY THE END OF THE WEEK, SO LIGHTEN UP, OKAY?

WITHOUT YOU, SERIOUS OLD BRIAREOS AND HIS WEAPONS POD WOULD BE ROTTING ON THE VINE.



YOU'RE MY INDISPENSABLE POINTMAN. LANCE UNDERSTANDS THAT VERY WELL.



DOES THAT MEAN YOU'LL TEAM UP WITH ME AGAIN?

YOU'RE AS STIFF AS A TEXTBOOK ON CLASSICAL APPLIED DYNAMICS.



FX VREEE FX WHMP







Greyhound English-bred mid-sized dogs with excellent running speed and eyesight. Used in hunting, racing, etc.



YECCH!

?

AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE PARTS COME FROM POSEIDON...

MNCH MNCH

FUNNY THING IS, THEY'RE MOSTLY BRITISH TECHNOLOGY. STRANGE WORLD, HUH?

"RELIGION IS THE OPiate OF THE MASSES," OR SOMETHING.

I HEAR THE ISRAELIS ARE USING THEM TO RECAPTURE JERUSALEM FROM THE MUSLIMS...

*FX: EEEUUUWWW

OH, COME ON-- IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S SOME SORT OF POISONOUS TOAD...!

WOULD YOU PLEASE TALK TO HER!

N-NO THANK YOU! YUCK! TAKE IT AWAAAAY!

NN!

给你。

*FX: POINK

THERE YOU GO AGAIN, GETTING THE UPHOLSTERY ALL SWEATY! HAVE SOME PITY FOR THE POOR, SUFFERING BEAST!

DOOSH

PSSH

THE LITTLE CONVENIENCES OF CIVILIZATION WERE MEANT FOR MOMENTS LIKE THIS!

JUST WHAT IS THAT LITTLE LM FOR, ANYWAY? ANYTHING OTHER THAN PLAYING AROUND WITH?



*FX: TOSS

UH,
OH...

HERE
GOES!

*KSSSHHH

HURGK?!

BEEP

*FX: KSSSHNKK

EYAA
AAH!

(SQUISH)

I'M GLAD
I WASN'T
BORN IN A
COUNTRY
WHERE
HUMOR HAD
TO COME IN
FROM THE
COLD...

OR LIKE
AFGHANI-
STAN,
MAYBE?

ALWAYS
THE COMBAT
PATTERN
IS THE SAME--
LIKE VIET-
NAM!

AH, THE
FINAL
DEFEAT OF
IMPERIAL-
ISM!

あ
は
は
は
は
は

*HAHAHAHA

No
to sé!

士 郎 正 宗 THE SCALES OF PROMETHEUS
APPLESEED™

Stalking the ruins of New York City is Artemis, a renegade, flesh-eating bioroid (enhanced artificial human) carrying data critical to the future of Olympus, and the elite ESWAT is sent in to tranquilize her and bring her back home. But when Artemis recovers during transit, the powerful combat bioroid escapes into the city. ESWAT agents Deunan and Briareos are dispatched to bring in the feral Artemis, but will they emerge as heroes . . . or lunch?

From *Ghost in the Shell* creator Shirow Masamune comes the manga masterpiece *Appleseed*, the epic cyberpunk vision that deftly balances hardcore techno-science, wry political commentary, and explosive action, and inspired the wildly popular animated film.

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.



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LOVAG